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TOLEDO WEEKLY BLADE

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DO YOU WANT A WORLD'S FAIR SOUVENIR COIN OR AN OAK TABLE?

See Fourth and Fifth Pages.

Poetry.

THE THINGS I WANT TO SEE.

I've been to museum, circus, show,
And curious things have seen;
But some I've looked for I could not find—
I will mention a few I mean.

A paring of nail from the finger of scorn,
A glove from the hand of fate,
A shoe once worn by the foot of a tree,
And a piece of a nickel-plate.

Some butter made from the cream of a joke,
The whiskers from Nature's face,
A shingle off the temple of fame,
And a rein from the human race.

A hat, from off the head of a street,
A tooth from the mouth of a brook,
A cent clipped off from the brow of a hill,
And a fish caught with Sandy Hook.

A feather pulled from a mountain's crest,
And some out of fancy's wings,
A hinge that came from the Golden Gate,
And some pieces of Sulphur Springs.

The pig that ate from the trough of the sea,
The lid of a box on the ear,
The dog that gave the bark of a tree,
And a necklace of beads on beer.

The knives that go with the forks of the road,
And a lash from a needle's eye,
A few receipted mosquito bills,
And the wings of a long foul fly.

The hair that grows on the tail of a kite,
Also on a cabbage head,
A loaf that fell from a family tree
And a sheet from a river's bed.

Of all these things I have often thought,
But none of them chanced to see.
The showman who can collect them all
Must greater than Barnum be.
—New York Commercial Advertiser.

WIND-GARDENS.

Mildway between earth and sky,
There the wild Wind-Gardens lie—
Tossing gardens, secret bowers,
Full of song, and full of flowers—
Wafting down to us below
Such a fragrance as we know
Never yet had lily or rose
That in earthly garden grows.

O, those gardens, dear and far,
Where the wild Wind-Fairies are,
Singing clearly, singing purely,
Strains of far-off Elf-Land, surely!—
Though we see them not, we hearken
To them when the spring skies darken—
We divine their wayward playing,
Through those far, strange gardens straying;

Plucking there the wild wind posies,
Lilies, violets and roses,
Whose sweet breath like angels' pity
Finds us, even in the city,
Where we toiling seek as treasures
Dull earth's disenchanting pleasures.
O those gales with wind flowers laden—
Flowers that no mortal maiden
In her breast shall ever wear!
Flowers to wreathe Titania's hair,
And to strew her happy way.
When she marries some wind fay!
O Wind-Gardens, where such songs are,
And of flowers such happy throngs are,
Though your paths I may not see,
Well I know how blest they be!
—Philip Bourke Marston.

THE DEFERRED PROPOSAL.

I love sweet Celia madly;
I think that she loves me.
I'd ask her hand most gladly,
But now it may not be.

I must delay my wooing
Till Christmas time is gone;
My billing and my cooing
Must wait the New Year's dawn;

For truly—'tis unpleasant
The sad fact to record—
A lover's Christmas present
For her I can't afford.
—Harper's Bazar.

Miscellany.

BLOCKADED BY SNOW.

BY NAT GOODWIN, THE ACTOR.

The most eventful Christmas I ever passed was just one year ago. We had played in Utica Christmas Eve and were to leave on an early morning train for Poughkeepsie. The company caught the train all right, but it was frightfully cold and a blizzard was raging. I decided to wait for a later train, which would reach Poughkeepsie about five o'clock. Instead of clearing up, however, the storm grew worse, and the train that I waited for never came. It was stalled in a drift up the road somewhere. I began to realize then that it was a cold day for me in more senses than one.

I tried to hire an engine, but didn't succeed, for there were none. I finally give it up in despair and went back to the hotel. George Appleton, my new manager, was made of sterner stuff than I, however, and in about two hours had organized a party of stormbound passengers and persuaded another railroad to make up a mixed train and try to get us through to the uncompleted bridge at Poughkeepsie. We would be landed on the opposite side of the river, they said, but we could get access to the town by the ferry. The depot was about three miles outside of Utica, and it took us three hours and a quarter to reach it. There was no fire in the cars we secured and mighty little in the engine. At 8 o'clock Christmas night we were dumped us out at the landing opposite Poughkeepsie.

The river was full of jagged masses of ice and the ferryboats had been compelled to stop running at 6 o'clock. There was no possible way of crossing except by the half finished railroad bridge, and that was guarded at either end by watchmen who had orders to allow none to pass. Moreover, there was no approach to the bridge, whose ice-clad buttress arose abruptly from the river's edge to a height of a hundred feet or more. The other passengers stopped right there and sought shelter in a neighboring hotel. I wanted to follow their good example, but Appleton wouldn't let me. He said we had gone too far to turn back then, and besides a sturdy small boy at the hotel had offered to show us how to climb to the bridge. He was rewarded in advance, and then we set out to battle with fate. The small boy took the lead, Appleton followed him, I made a close third, and my valet, Jack, formed a kind of rear guard to look after my remains in case of accident. Our small guide led us straight to the buttress of the bridge, which was built of massive blocks of stone arranged in terrace form, from its broad base to its narrow apex. These terraces were about fifteen feet high and covered with ice and snow. It was impossible for a man to climb them unaided, but the boy was equal to the emergency. After prowling about for a few minutes he found a ladder which had been used by the workmen. I can't begin to describe the difficulties and the dangers of that climb. But at last we scrabbled to the top, with clothes torn and hands bruised and bleeding. Fortunately the watchman was walking toward the middle of the bridge, and we had a chance for a good start before he could stop us. After a short breathing spell, Appleton, Jack and I began our perilous journey along the narrow footpath that stretched across the ghastly looking iron work. But before we had reached the middle of the bridge the watchman stopped us and ordered us to go back. We pleaded and protested and argued, but it was of no use. He wouldn't even take a bribe. Thereupon the boy Jack kindly called my attention to the fact that the water looked awfully cold down below. Appleton quickly added that under certain circumstances it would make an excellent plunge bath, and I chipped in with a flippant remark about it being a three-to-one shot.

That watchman evidently thought we meditated murder, or some equally desperate crime, for his eyes fairly bulged from their sockets as he backed away from us for as the narrow footpath would permit. We hurried after him in single file, and our way without further interference from him. The watchman at the other end of the bridge, however, proved of different metal. He was as big as two of us, and we didn't dare to attempt any bluff with him. He was even more obdurate than the other fellow. It began to look as though all our labor was to be in vain, when Appleton whispered to me to run while he engaged the watchman in conversation. Well, I scooted, and so did Jack, but we didn't scoot far, for we were brought to a sudden standstill by the abrupt termination of the bridge at the buttress. It was a sheer hundred feet to the ground and there was no ladder. I gave it up again and could have wept scalding tears if it hadn't

THE GUARD WAS OBDURATE.

been so cold. Appleton, however, succeeded in pacifying the watchman, and came to our rescue with grim determination in his stride. He boldly jumped down the first terrace and called upon Jack and me to follow. Jack did so, but I hesitated. Those fifteen feet seemed like a precipice, and the landing on the next terrace looked awfully hard and insecure. I didn't dare to jump, so I compromised by taking a kind of a toboggan slide on my coat tail. It wasn't as exhilarating or as fascinating as many other slides I've had, but it was quite as exciting. In this way I reached terra firma in a somewhat dismantled condition. Incidentally I bade a tearful good-by to my trousers next day.

It was about two miles from the bridge to the opera house, and we had to foot it, because there wasn't a vehicle abroad that night. We ran most of the way to keep from freezing, and after frightening a couple of women into hysterics, because they misunderstood our hurried request for information, we arrived at the theater at a quarter past nine and proceeded with the perfomance. As there was no time to change I went on just as I was, looking like a scarecrow on a Massachusetts farm. The audience was good natured, though, and readily forgave me when they learned what had happened. I shall never forget that trip, and I wouldn't go through it again, even to elect Harrison.

STOCKADES OF TUSKS.

A Century's Supply of Ivory Heaped Up in the Interior of Africa.

"The ivory trade shows a most remarkable increase," Commercial Agent Mohun writes from the Congo to the State department. "Ivory is the most valuable article exported. It all comes from the High Congo, both north and south of the river. Steamers bring it as far as Stanley Pool, and from there to Matadi (250 miles) native carriers bring it on their backs. I have seen in one day 500 carriers come into Matadi, each man carrying a tusk averaging 65 pounds in weight. When tusks weigh 200 pounds, which not infrequently happens, four men carry them. Most of the ivory now coming down is known as 'dead ivory.' Some of the elephants from which these tusks came were killed 100 years ago, and the kings of villages have been storing it, placing the last tusk secured on top of the pile, and so when they required some goods from the coast traders the tusks from the bottom layers were taken. This system has prevailed for years, and it is estimated that there is enough ivory stored in the interior to supply the world for the next century. It is estimated, but upon whose authority I can not discover, that there are still at least 200,000 elephants in Central Africa. The only 'live,' or new ivory which now comes down is that procured by hunters attached to the different trading houses. I may add that live ivory commands a higher price than the dead. A state expedition visited a native king some months ago in the interior. Upon leaving the commanding officer presented the king with a uniform coat, cocked hat and sword. The king, in return, presented the officer with 150 tusks of ivory, averaging 120 pounds each, and provided carriers to take them to the river. These people do not recognize the value, and laugh at the trader for buying. Some of these kings have stockades of ivory built around their dwellings."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

MADE FROM A SACRED QUARRY.

Something New About the Pipestone Used by the Aboriginal Smokers.

An expedition sent out by the bureau of ethnology for the purpose of making collections to illustrate aboriginal quarrying and mining at the Columbian Exposition has just returned to Washington with a remarkably large and most interesting assemblage of objects secured.

Among the objects are a number of pipes and fragments of pipestone obtained from the famous pipestone quarry in Southwest Minnesota, whence the Indians of North America have got the material for their pipes since very ancient days, long before Columbus landed upon this continent. From that time down to the present the working of this same mineral deposit has been kept up continuously, even the savage Sioux traveling annually 300 miles to spend a month at the quarry. For centuries the place was regarded as sacred and all tribes met there, preserving peace religiously while on the spot, says the Washington Star.

For miles around the quarry the plains are covered with the rings which mark the sites where Indian lodges were once established and everywhere are scattered fragments of pipestone representing the waste of manufacture. This material seems to have been selected by the savages because of its beauty and softness when fresh. The latter quality renders it easy to carve, while subsequently it becomes extremely hard. Its color is an exquisite "Indian red."

Much of the carving work done on the pipes is of highly artistic quality. Some of the specimens secured by Prof. Holmes, who made the collections referred to, would do credit to the most skillful workers in cerorschaum.

On account of the difficulties attending the mining of the pipestone, it is quite a precious substance, a piece one foot square being worth from $2 to $5 in the crude. The stratum described is about twelve inches in thickness and seems to be evenly continuous for an indefinite distance through the hill. However, only two inches of this thickness is of good quality, being smooth to the touch and free from grit.

The fact that this pipestone quarry was regarded as sacred is indicated by extensive pictographs on the rocks in the vicinity of certain huge bowlders found on the spot, representing aboriginal gods and other things of religious significance.

SHORT AND SWEET.

The letter "i" is in "it."

"Cool and collected"—the ice bill.

It is easy for a deaf man to miss his calling.

The smartest Aleck in the world is Electricity.

The smell of the mince pie is heard in the land.

A pound of cure ought to be a sovereign remedy.

Many a man has made a goose of himself with a single quill.

To the paragrapher—Be sure you're bright, then go ahead.

The brass-band man is always ready to go out on a little toot.

The ills of life are often easier to bear than the stock market.

At what age do men usually wish to retire from life?—Hermit-age.

The reason figures won't lie is because they always stand for something.

It is probably the number of tars on board which makes a vessel pitch.

Crows have one virtue at least. They are devotedly attached to their caws.

When a hen makes a dead set for a family she gets it if she has half a chance.
—Texas Siftings.

WEALTH IN SOUTHERN STATES.

How That Section Was Crippled by the Civil War.

In 1860 the assessed value of property in the South was $5,200,000,000 out of a total $12,000,000,000 in the entire country, or 44 per cent. In ten years there was a startling change. In 1870 the South had only $3,000,000,000 of assessed value, while the total for the whole country was $14,-170,000,000. While the South grew poorer the North and West grew richer as never before. In 1860 the assessed value of property in Massachusetts was $777,150,000 as compared with $5,200,000,000 in the South; in 1870 Massachusetts had $1,590,-000,000 of property, and the South $3,000,-000,000.

Such was the poverty of the South that the one state listed for taxes more than one-half as much property as the fourteen states of that section could show. The assessed value of property in New York and Pennsylvania alone in 1870 was greater than in the whole South. South Carolina, which in 1860 had been third in rank in wealth in proportion to the number of her inhabitants, had dropped to be the thirtieth; Georgia had dropped from the seventh to the thirty-ninth; Mississippi from the fourth place to the thirty-fourth, Alabama from the eleventh to the forty-fourth, Kentucky from tenth to twenty-eighth, and the other Southern states had gone down in the same way, while the Northern and Western states had steadily increased in wealth.

In 1860 the assessed value of property in South Carolina, according to the census, was $498,000,000, while the combined values in Rhode Island and New Jersey aggregated $421,000,000, or $68,000,000 less than South Carolina. Of course the true value is always greater than the assessed value. In 1870 the combined values in Rhode Island and New Jersey amounted to $868,000,000, and the value in South Carolina was $183,000,000.

Thus while South Carolina had $68,000,-000 more assessed property in 1860 than these two states, in 1870 they exceeded South Carolina's by $685,000,000. Notwithstanding the mighty industrial advance in the South during the last ten years, the building of 20,000 miles of railroad, and the increase in agricultural production, the assessed value of property is not yet as great as it was thirty years ago and Maryland—a border state—and Florida and Texas are the only states which have as much assessed wealth now as in 1860.—Engineering Magazine.

FOUNTAINS OF FIRE.

How to Produce Them Easily and Cheaply.

A burning candle, a common clay pipe and some pieces of tintoil comprise the necessary tools for operating and providing a brilliant scene of fire without the slightest danger. The tintoil must be cut in strips about one half an inch wide and these are held opposite the light. The metal becomes inflamed and falls into the shape of incondescent globules on the table, rebounding in doing so and traversing a considerable distance. Sometimes these globules divide and form a series of others which dance over the tables as shown in the

accompanying sketch. With a good strong light and plenty of tinfoil a perfect fountain of burning, disseminating globules can be made.

The experiment is without the slightest danger. The globules, covered by the oxide which is formed during the process of combustion, leave but a little white trace, which is promptly rubbed off the oilcloth covering the table.

She Could Use It.

Peddler (opening his pack)—I have here, madam, an improved rat trap, which—

Woman of the House—We are never troubled with rats.

"Which can also be used for cracking nuts—"

"We never use nuts of any kind."

"Or as a coffee roaster. Adjusted in this manner it—"

"We always buy our coffee roasted."

"Just so. Reversing the wires that form the upper portion and bringing down the side flaps thus we have a device for holding eggs when cooking—"

"We never eat eggs."

"And by folding these wire loops, as you see me doing now, it makes a handy arrangement for holding a small mirror—"

"Haven't the slighest use for such a thing."

"While by adjusting another small mirror in this position and another at this angle, as you will notice, and placing it in a kitchen window, for example, it has the curious effect of enabling the observer, seated at one side of the window and entirely out of sight, to see distinctly through any window that may be opposite and to note what is going on inside, and all I ask for this most useful and comprehensive invention is 75 cents, which is only about one-half—"

"I'll take it."—Chicago Tribune.

Two souls without a single thought.—Puck.

Some Answers.

The school board of education of to-day is not a failure. A day or two ago a government inspector visited a South London school and the following viva voce examination was overheard:

Inspector (to class of girls)—"Why is America called the new world?"

Bright Scholar—"Please sir, because it was made last."

Inspector—"No, no; it was discovered last. Who found it?"

First Girl—"Our teachers."

Second Girl (triumphantly)—"Governess."

Third Girl (desperately)—"Why, the inspector!"

Their youthful minds could not imagine an authority higher than the "government 'spectir," and the name of Columbus fell very flat and was greeted with murmurs of "Who's he?"—Pall Mall Gazette.

Serving Celery.

The problem of how to serve celery has been solved, at least temporarily, in the prevailing fashion of laying two or three choice stalks at the side of each plate. Nobody regretted the retirement of the tall celery vases, but the flat dishes were about equally awkward and inconvenient. The present idea is sensible and satisfactory and should be preserved.

The Magazine's Prerogative.

The Subscriber—You can cut off my copy of the Monthly Harpury.

The Publisher—Why?

The Subscriber—Too much reading matter. When he has to number the advertising was crowded down to 340 pages.—Chicago News Record.

THEIR FACES THEIR FORTUNES.

Many Pretty Girls That Are Employed for Looks Only.

Many employers find it a better paying investment to hire pretty women who are really incompetent in certain capacities than to pay for more skillful hands, yet who are plain looking. The girls need not be a bit flirtatious, but their pretty faces attract custom that would drift elsewhere if there were not some such strong magnet to attract it in a certain direction, says the Philadelphia Times.

Cashiers in drug stores where a soda fountain is the principal avenue of wealth are nearly always sweet-faced, as their dainty appearance makes a man feel thirsty for the sake of a word or a smile, when a sour-visaged creature in the same place would cause the throng to flock elsewhere for their libations.

Barmaids are always as good-looking as can be obtained for the money offered, sales-girls are selected with reference to their pleasing appearance, waitresses command better wages when they are neat and pretty—in fact, in every branch of business beauty is a great factor.

In those lines in which trade is to be attracted, a woman's looks are regarded as paramount even to her ability. In one instance that has come directly under our personal knowledge a radiantly lovely cashier knew so much about her business that she announced the result of adding twenty and thirty-five together as eighty-five, but she was not discharged, owing to her pretty face, and maybe because the error was in favor rather than against her employer.

Be that as it may, it is no reflection on the girls because they are chosen for their attractive appearance. They are simply pleasing displays of prettiness in spots unaccustomed to the light of the countenance feminine. Therefore men flock thither to contemplate and to admire, and would rather buy of such or any other checks in through a little cage that holds a pretty birdling than to be greeted by some coarse man or unattractive female.

THE BONES OF A MAMMOTH.

A New Fossil of a Very Wonderful "Extinct Monster."

The skeleton of a very wonderful new "extinct monster" has recently been set up in the Natural History Museum at Kensington, England. This fine specimen—the only complete skeleton known—was discovered last year by Professor H. G. Seeley, F. R. S., in South Africa

THE SKELETON OF AN EXTINCT MONSTER.

and was described by him in a paper read before the Royal society, 1891.

In length it is nearly eight feet. The bones are all massive and strong; its legs are short, and when walking the creature probably had a somewhat sprawling gait, like a lizard or a crocodile. The head is much like that of a salamander, or even a frog.

It is very difficult to say what the animal itself was most like, but it probably was amphibious. Altogether it is a strange and now wholly extinct type, with a resemblance to a salamander, and yet in some ways aping a mammal or modern quadruped. It belongs to an ancient period of the world's history, the period of the Trias, or New Red Sandstone, and has been named Pariasaurus Baini. It was found in the Karoo formation, near Tamboer Fontien.

RAILROADING IN ARGENTINE.

When The Trans-Andean Road is Opened It Will Boom in Earnest.

Railroading in Argentine is rapidly assuming mammoth proportions, which may indicate what will be the case when the Trans-Andean road is completed and in operation. We learn that for one Buenos Ayres station alone, namely the Central, during the six months ended June 30 last, 38,418 trains entered and left the station, an average of 211 trains per day of 18 working hours, giving an average interval between the trains of less than five minutes. During the same period the gross receipts of the road were $1,235,-450; working expenses, $870,060; an increase in the latter of $36,295 over the corresponding period of 1891, and an increase in the net receipts of $65,305. Against the total net receipts of $365,390, charges in the form of interest on debenture stock, rent of the Buenos Ayres Northern section, annuity on the Buenos Ayres Western section, etc., to the amount of $39,020 are deducted. The general manager reports favorable prospects for the coming harvest, the weather being perfect for pastoral and agricultural purposes, and all engaged in these pursuits are looking forward hopefully to the immediate future as a period which promises to bring great prosperity to the country. —Panama Star and Herald.

Fast Sailing.

In a paper on the transatlantic steamer traffic, read before the Liverpool Engineering society by Mr. Maginnis, the confident opinion is expressed that before many years the passage across the Atlantic ferry will occupy but four and a half days, because a speed of 26 knots is not at all beyond the scope of advancing improvements. In 1878, he pointed out, the greatest horse power in an Atlantic steamer was 6,000. Now, 30,000 is within sight. The future steamers will be mail and passenger carriers only, and Mr. Maginnis believes that commercial success would attend such ships. Attention was drawn to the great immunity from breakdown of machinery which characterizes the vessels of the Atlantic, although the voyages in the winter are the most trying in the world. In the year from October 1, 1891, to October 1, 1892, there were over 1,900 sailings from each side of the Atlantic, nearly 4,000 departures from ports, averaging only assistance a week, but with all these the writer had only been able to trace seven breakdowns of machinery and only three total disablements.

The Columbian Stamps.

For exactly one year—from January 1, 1893, to January 1, 1894—the Columbus postage stamps will be on sale for general use and will then be withdrawn. So now is the time for young stamp collectors to keep their eyes open. There will be one, two, three, four, five, six, ten, fifteen, thirty, and forty cent stamps; one, two, three, four and five dollar stamps, each one an incident from the life of Columbus will be given, generally chosen from some celebrated picture. Thus on the six-cent stamp there will be "Columbus Welcomed at Barcelona," from one of the bronze doors in the Capitol at Washington, by Randolph Rogers. On the one-dollar stamp will be Isabella pledging her jewels, after the painting by Munoz Degrain, now in Madrid. And on the four-dollar stamp there will be portraits in circles of Isabella and Columbus, the portrait of Isabella after the well-known painting in Madrid, and that of Columbus after the Lotto painting.

A Word's Loss of Caste.

Words have their destinies as well as books. Mr. Darcy Lever, in an amusing article on this subject, laments that the "good old English" word "riddler" should have utterly lost caste and dragged down "riddle" with it in its fall. "Riddle" and "riddler" have certainly been names of scorn since Mrs. Piozzi's second husband was so contemptuously compared to her first husband, Mr. Thrale and dismissed as "a fiddler." Mr. Lever might have cited an earlier example in the case of Lord Chesterfield, who, it will be remembered, reminded a certain gentleman never fiddles. Had his lordship lived to these days he would have acknowledged that princes and princesses take delight in this instrument, though, to be sure, they call it "violin." But this question is why is the word "violin" respectable, while the old word "fiddle"—which has a respectable derivation and means the same thing—is clothed with mean and ridiculous associations? This question Mr. Lever confesses himself compelled to leave to "sharper wits."—London Daily News.

English Women Astride.

There is no telling what may happen next among those who ape English notions in this country, now that the English women are authoritatively reported to be riding astride their horses at the hunts. The spectacle of equestrienes attired either in divided skirts or in long riding coats, boots, and breeches is something calculated to startle those who are privileged to witness it. Over in England it is reported that the innovation meets with approving comment from the men. It is just possible that this fact may be sufficient to secure its approval here, but the chances are that the taste will have to be acquired very gradually.—Boston Herald.

Our Serial Story.

Written Expressly for THE BLADE. Copyright 1892.

A DAZZLING SCHEME.

By WILL LISENBEE.

CHAPTER IV.

EZRA BANGS'S TRIUMPH.

"I know," went on the lawyer, after a long pause, in which he had been hastily considering the best way of procedure, "that you will be willing to make any sacrifice to assist your father in procuring the means to discharge his indebtedness."

"How and in what manner can I assist in the matter?" asked Lucy, eyeing the lawyer, a puzzled expression upon her face.

"I will explain," continued Bangs, "and you will see that the services required of you are of such a character as to be unobjectionable when properly understood. I shall begin at the beginning so that you may fully understand the whole affair. Not long ago there died in Nogales a man who was a comparative stranger in the place, but a short time before he died my partner and I were sent for to make his will. When the will had been drawn up, signed and witnessed, it was left in our charge with instructions to find the daughter of the testator, who was, by the will, heiress to all his estate, valued at over $200,000! The maker of the will, whose true name was Bayard Benton, but who had, for reasons which I shall explain, been living under the assumed name of Richard Hoys, was a distant relative of mine," went on Bangs, adding this falsehood with the hope of justifying in the eyes of the girl his proposed action, "and but for the daughter I would have been the heir to the entire estate.

"From old Benton's statement we learned that his daughter, Gertrude, had been left in Kansas some ten years before with a family by the name of Simpson, she being an only child, and her mother having died some years before. Benton's cause of leaving his 8-year old daughter in the manner he did, was, as we afterwards learned, due to the fact that he had been implicated in a great crime and to escape the vengeance of the law had fled to Arizona, where he changed his name. He never wrote to his daughter, and it was supposed that he was dead.

"When he left Kansas he was a poor man, but he soon accumulated enough money to enable him to engage in gold mining, at which he amassed his fortune. The 'Kansas Belle,' the mine from which he obtained most of his fortune, lies in the mountains some thirty miles from Nogales and near the Mexico line.

"Old Benton, it seems had written for information regarding his daughter through a friend of his and had learned that she had gone to New Mexico with the family with whom she had been left. On later inquiry we discovered that the family never reached its destination, and was massacred by Indians, and as far as we could ascertain Benton's daughter, Gertrude shared the same fate.

"There is not a particle of doubt in my mind that the girl is dead, yet we have failed to produce the proofs that she is, and until this is done the estate will by law, to be held for her. But could proofs of her death be secured, then as the next kin and as the only living relative of the deceased, I would come into possession of the estate.

"You can easily see the situation in which I am placed, and how my inability to gain any authentic information regarding the fate of Gertrude Benton works me a great wrong. Should we succeed in finding the missing heiress—should she be alive—then we would receive the sum of $1,000 as provided in the will.

"Of course no one knows anything about the business but my partner and I, more than that the fortune of the deceased was left to his daughter and no one suspects that she is dead, and of course she will be expected to come and take possession of the estate. Should she do so, there is none excepting myself who would question her rights. Now, being convinced that the girl is dead, and knowing that it may take years for me to prove the fact so that I can inherit the estate that in justice is already mine, I am willing to make some sacrifice in the matter and share the fortune with some one who will come forward as Gertrude Benton and claim her rights. If you will do this, Miss Bogford, I assure you——"

"Mr. Bangs," said Lucy, turning deadly pale, "what—what do you mean? How dare you——" She stopped abruptly, and stood looking at him in a dazed manner, her whole frame trembling with emotion.

"Please let me go on," said the lawyer, hurriedly. "I am not through yet, and I shall show you that what I ask of you is nothing wrong, as you at first be led to think it was, but might simply assist a friend to obtain his rights, and at the same time rendering a great service to your invalid father who must suffer the loss of all he has on earth should you fail to come to his aid. Listen: I am a lawyer; I am more skilled in matters of this kind than you, and as I value my reputation as a gentleman, and the honor of being your friend, I assert that no wrong shall or can come to you or yours in this affair. The matter is entirely in the hands of my partner and I, and whoever we bring forward as the heiress, will never be questioned. We will see that all the papers are made out and so arranged that there will be absolutely nothing required of you but your presence. We will do the rest. It is a small service to ask of you, but I shall not be niggardly in the matter, and shall divide the estate equally with you, which is valued at over $200,000. The amount you will receive will place you and your parents forever beyond want. To none but yourself would I make this offer. Think of the hardships you—a young girl—are compelled to endure here in this wild and lonely place—it is enough to drive one to the verge of desperation. But on the other hand, when you reflect that with the service it is in your power to render me, you can place yourself, as well as your parents, in possession of a fortune, I can not see how you could hesitate for a single instant in doing what I have suggested. Your parents need know nothing of the matter. It can all be done so quickly that you need not be absent from home but a short time. I will arrange all that for you with your father, and will explain to him that it is some business in connection with the sale of the ranch that requires your presence in the city. Never fear but what I shall be equal to all emergencies. Only tell me that you consent to my proposition and the matter is done. Think of your father and the hardships your refusal would bring upon him, and I know that at least, for the sake of those you love, you will consent."

He paused, wiped the perspiration from his heated brow and stood regarding the girl with a look of intense eagerness. Would she consent to his proposition? A sickening feeling of uncertainty and vague fears surged through his soul as he waited with painful anxiety for her to speak.

As the lawyer ceased speaking Lucy Bogford had stepped back, and stood leaning heavily against a stunted cedar for support, a pallor upon her face, a strange light burning in her eyes. But she did not speak.

Every moment seemed an age to Ezra Bangs, and there was a nervous twitching of his fingers as he waited for her reply.

"And you will consent—surely you will not throw such a chance away," he said at length, in an eager tone, unable to longer bear the suspense her silence occasioned.

She lifted her eyes to his, and stepping quickly back, said:

"Say no more—it shall be as you wish—I will claim the estate as Gertrude Benton!"

Then turning abruptly, she fled in the direction of the house.

A look of intense joy suddenly illuminated the lawyer's face as the girl uttered the words, and he would have detained her, but she fled quickly beyond his reach.

Mounting his horse, he turned about, and rode in the direction of the town, a gleam of triumph in his small, bead-like eyes.

"It is as Hampton said it would be," he muttered, "and we shall be as rich as Jews. You have got a long head on you, Hampton, old fellow; you have, by Jupiter! We have got everything our own way now, and there is nothing left but to rake in the fortune. But that is not all our success will bring. Once the thing is settled, you will be in my power, my pretty Lucy Bogford, and you will find out, my charming miss, that Ezra Bangs knows how to use that power."

He paused abruptly in his musings, and winked violently at a tree that grew by the wayside, a look of intense satisfaction visible upon his florid visage.

CHAPTER V.

A STARTLING DISCOVERY.

When Paul Mayfield recovered consciousness he was lying, face-upward, in a thicket of mesquite bushes, near the stream whither the Mexicans had dragged him after knocking him senseless.

For some moments he could not comprehend where he was or what had taken place. He tried to move, but a deadly weakness came over him and he remained quiet. There was a dull pain about his head and he felt strangely bewildered and confused. Then, as the memory of what had taken place came vaguely back to him, he heard the sound of a voice close by. Was it the voice of one of his assailants? No; he had caught a glimpse of the dark faces of the two Mexicans just as he received the blow, and it could not be one of them who was speaking.

Now he heard another voice, that made him start with surprise. It was the voice of Lucy Bogford. She was conversing with some man—just who Paul could not tell. He tried to move or call out, but the effort caused a deadly pain in his head, and for a moment he almost lost consciousness. He lay quiet, listening in an apathetic way to the man, who was now speaking very earnestly. At last he was only vaguely conscious of what the man was saying, but as he proceeded Paul grew strangely interested in his words.

In his attempt to rise Paul had turned partly on his side, bringing his face toward the spot from whence the voices proceeded, and now as he glanced through an opening in the thicket he caught a momentary glimpse of the florid face of Ezra Bangs! He recognized the lawyer's face, for he had seen him once before on his visit to the ranch.

Paul had not been very favorably impressed with the lawyer's manner when he had first seen him, and he now felt convinced that the man was a villain, for he had heard enough to satisfy him on that point.

So it happened, that lying there, weak and wounded in the mesquite thicket, Paul Mayfield heard the whole plot revealed by which the rascally Bangs and his partner were to get possession of the Benton estate, and which was to be accomplished through the aid of Lucy Bogford!

The very thought cut Paul like a knife, and as the wily Bangs proceeded to unfold his evil and daring plan, the young surveyor felt a fierce and ungovernable desire to choke the life out of the unscrupulous villain.

With a great effort Paul raised himself up on his elbow, and as he did so he heard the voice of Lucy Bogford.

"Say no more," she said, "it shall be as you wish. I will claim the estate as Gertrude Benton!"

The words came to Paul as if a clap of thunder had come from the cloudless sky, and for a moment he could hardly credit his sense of hearing. Then, as a full realization of what he had heard came to him, he made a futile attempt to rise.

"My God!"

He uttered the words in a hoarse whisper, and reeling downward again, sunk unconscious upon the ground.

When his senses returned to him he was lying where he had fallen, and the afternoon sun was beating fiercely upon his face. He did not attempt to rise just yet, but lay perfectly quiet, hoping that his strength would soon return. He could hear the water running, only a few yards away, and he felt that if he could only succeed in reaching it, and could quench his burning thirst and bathe his feverish head it would revive him. He could no longer hear the voice of Lucy Bogford and the lawyer, and he knew that they had taken their departure. There was no one near who could give him assistance, and he resolved to make an attempt to reach the stream. After much exertion he managed to roll over, and there he drank deeply of the refreshing fluid and bathed his burning brow.

He washed the blood from his face, which had come from a wound in the side of the head. Then he leaned his back against the bank of the stream, feeling somewhat refreshed.

He now discovered that his watch was gone, as well as his pocketbook, containing about a hundred dollars in currency, and he realized that the assault that had been made upon him was done for the purpose of robbery.

He looked about him for his horse, but the animal could nowhere be seen. Perhaps the two ruffians had taken him also? No; he knew that his faithful horse would allow no hand of the stranger to touch him, and he felt convinced that he was still somewhere in the vicinity.

He gave vent to a peculiar whistle, and after repeating this several times, a low whinny came from a thicket down the stream, and a few moments later he was delighted to see his horse approaching.

"Come, Jocko—good Jock," Paul cried, and the horse came trotting up and began rubbing his master by rubbing his nose against his shoulder.

Paul caught hold of the stirrup and attempted to raise himself up, but he was too weak as yet to mount. He reseated himself upon the ground till the dizziness that came over him should pass away, and till his strength should return.

Wetting his handkerchief in the stream, he bound it tightly about his wounded head. After remaining for nearly a half hour seated upon the bank, he felt stronger, and rising, managed to get into the saddle.

The sun now was far down the western horizon, and in his weak and wounded condition he felt that he must return to camp at once. He would not visit the Bogford ranch house. What he had had overheard between Lucy and the lawyer had been a severe blow to had overheard between Lucy over the strange affair before meeting the young girl again.

He was a prey to the most [illegible] and conflicting emotions as he rode [illegible] the dim trail that led through the valley. He knew that the wily attorney and his partner had laid a deep scheme to defraud some one out of a valuable estate, and that Lucy Bogford had given her consent to aid them in their evil plans. It cut him like a knife to know that she, whom he loved more than any one on earth, and upon whom he had looked as the embodiment of all that was pure and above reproach, should debase herself by entering into such a daring and criminal conspiracy.

Yet, he reflected that the girl, being ignorant of matters pertaining to the law, might not realize the enormity of the deed she was committing in allowing herself to become a party to the atrocious plot, in which case she ought not to be judged too harshly. Then he remembered that the scheming lawyer had presented the matter to the girl in the most deceptive manner, keeping her in ignorance as much as possible as to the true character of the business, and working strongly on her sympathy for her invalid father.

Paul Mayfield reflected deeply on all these points, hoping to find some way in which to justify Lucy Bogford's actions, but he could arrive at no conclusion that would even bring satisfaction to his own disturbed mind. What should he do in the matter? Should he go to the girl, tell her of what he had heard, and save her from becoming entangled in the dangerous business? As these thoughts came to his mind, others of a different character presented themselves. Perhaps his brief acquaintance with her would not warrant his interference in her private affairs, and she might resent any attempt he might make to advise her regarding the affair in which she had become involved. Perhaps after all she only looked upon him as a mere acquaintance.

The more he reflected over the matter the more perplexed and disturbed he became, and it was impossible for him to decide upon any course of action. He felt that he could do nothing just yet but await further developments. He must at least make some inquiry into the case, and, if possible, learn just how the affair stood.

He was resolved to go to Nogales on the morrow, if he should be able, and learn all he could about the Benton case, of which, as yet, he knew nothing, save what he had overheard from the lips of Bangs, the lawyer. Until this was done, he felt that he would not be warranted in taking any steps in the matter. Having settled this in his mind, he urged his horse into a quicker gait and rode on through the blazing sun, little dreaming of the strange and thrilling adventures that were in store for him.

CHAPTER VI.

THE CABIN IN THE CANYON.

Paul Mayfield did not follow the same route he had come over, but turned to the left across a range of hills, hoping thereby to arrive at the camp in a shorter time than he would by following the trail that led down the valley.

The blazing sun pouring down upon him made him feel sick and dizzy, and he longed to escape from its fierce rays. After traveling for four or five miles across the rocky hills, he descended abruptly into a deep canyon whose sunless depths afforded a welcome respite from the scorching rays above.

Following the course of the canyon, he rode on through the cool shadows, feeling a delicious sense of comfort as the cooling breeze fanned his feverish brow.

As he proceeded he noticed that the walls of the canyon grew higher and steeper, till finally he found himself walled in by perpendicular cliffs that rose a hundred feet above the valley.

He now drew rein, and glancing about him, began to debate the advisabilty of proceeding further down the canyon, as to follow it might lead him far out of his way. But for the protection from the sun afforded by the route through the canyon he would have continued his journey across the hills, but it now appeared as if he would be compelled to return and do so at last.

If he should travel in a direct line to the camp, he must now leave the canyon and journey eastward, but he saw no way to accomplish this since the walls of the rocky pass rendered his turning aside impossible. A journey of several miles still lay before him, and to double on his course and proceed by the way of the hills would increase it by half at least, and as the sun was already low in the Western horizon he realized that night would be upon him before he could reach his destination.

While he was debating the question as to whether he should proceed on the course he was now traveling or turn back to where he could leave the canyon, his eyes fell upon a small cabin standing in a little grove on the eastern side of the narrow valley. A thin smoke was curling above the chimney, and Paul hailed it as a most welcome sight. Weak and dizzy with a dull pain in his head, he felt hardly able to continue his journey, and mentally resolved to obtain lodgings for the night at the hut if it were possible.

Turning his horse, he rode in the direction of the building. As he drew near the smell of frying bacon came from the open door of the hut, mingled with the odor of boiling coffee.

Seated upon

FERDINAND DE LESSEPS.

STORY OF A RUINED MAN.

His Panama Canal Scheme Was His Downfall—How He Built the Suez—His Character and Downfall.

Twenty-three years ago the name of Ferdinand De Lesseps was on every body's lips. He had completed the greatest feat of engineering of modern times—the Suez canal. He had realized his dream and made this gigantic undertaking a success, which brought him the admiration and fame of the whole civilized world. It is impossible to enumerate the honors with which he was overwhelmed from every quarter of the globe. The French government bestowed upon him the greatest honor it can bestow—the grand cross of the Legion of Honor. In England the enthusiasm for De Lesseps was so great that the city council of London decided to confer the rare distinction of making him an "honorary citizen of the city of London." In short he was at the zenith of his fortune and fame, and there was not the slightest shadow of a cloud visible which could darken his evening of life.

And now all this dazzling splendor and glory have been ruthlessly swept away, leaving in their stead the heavy pall of darkness and sorrow. The honor of having accomplished one of the most notable works in history nobody can deny to De Lesseps. But the nimbus which formerly surrounded his name is gone forever. The wretched fiasco of the Panama undertaking has thrown him from his height of fame and brought him at the age of 87 years to be arraigned for trial in a court of justice.

That the majority in the French

FERDINAND DE LESSEPS.

Chamber of Deputies wish the case against De Lesseps investigated without reserve is without a doubt. This was shown a few days ago when they hurriedly repealed the clause in the old law which made the possessor of the grand cross of the Legion of Honor exempt from appearing before a tribunal except that of the highest court of France.

The public is divided in reference to pushing the charges against the venerable old man. Many of the Parisian newspapers are in strong sympathy with De Lesseps, both on account of his age and his illustrious services. These papers hold it would be a burning shame to permit one of the most distinguished sons of France to be brought before a court of justice like a common miscreant. They admit that the Panama affair was a badly planned and wretchedly managed undertaking, but that De Lesseps acted in good faith and that he has not profited by the transaction in any illegitimate way.

What use the French government can make of an investigation at this late day is hard to understand. Even if the directors in the Panama company were compelled to sacrifice every franc they have it would not be a drop in the sea in comparison with the 1,100,000,000 or 1,200,000,000 francs which are irrevocably lost to the unfortunate stockholders in this ill-fated enterprise. The foreign press also expresses sympathy for De Lesseps. The London Times, in a leader, said that the decision of the French government to prefer charges against this man has shocked both France and the civilized world, and adds: "With all his faults De Lesseps is to-day, perhaps, the greatest living Frenchman. His great deeds have had a direct influence on the direction of French politics, and, although the Panama undertaking came to a disastrous end, France can not have forgotten what De Lesseps has done for the honor of his country. It is with great pain and sorrowing hearts that the French would see this 87-year-old man on a felon's bench, accused of embezzlement."

It is now interesting to glance at the former career of Ferdinand de Lesseps, the central figure of this great financial upheaval. He was born at Versailles in 1805, and enjoyed all the advantages of a splendid education. He evinced a strong inclination toward the diplomatic service, but his father discouraged him as much as possible in his endeavors to receive a government appointment. He, however, carried his point, and through influences stronger than his father's he was appointed consul at Cairo in 1833. While here and at Alexandria as Consul General de Lesseps received the cross of the Legion of Honor for humane services rendered during the plague which swept off one-third of the population. He was transferred to Rotterdam, and then, in 1844 to Barcelona, where he gave great satisfaction to the different nationalities of the latter place at the time of its bombardment by Espartero. The French residents struck a medal in his honor. The Marseilles Chamber of Commerce presented him with an address; the Barcelona Chamber ordered his bust in marble. The Princess of Sardinia and the Two Sicilies conferred their highest honors on him. In 1848 he was ambassador to the court of Madrid, and in 1849 represented the government at Rome. Here he displeased the home office on account of his tendency to concessions to the young Republic of Rome. "Full of generous ardor and belief in human progress and the rights of man," says M. de Lavon, "he remonstrated against the occupation of Rome by the French troops in 1849, and, after a protest against Gen. Oudinot's bombardment and military rule, he retired from a diplomatic career in which advancement was so sure, thus seemingly sacrificing his whole future for principle."

The project of the Suez canal, which for years had been his pet idea now received his undivided attention and energy. To cut a new route for the commerce of our day straight across from sea to sea became De Lesseps's one great ambition. He had steadily advocated the widest extension of commerce, swift and close intercourse between remote points where such a thing was possible.

In 1854 he was sent by the French to negotiate with Said Pasha for the construction of the Suez canal, first proprojected in 1816. His mission was crowned by success, and the necessary concessions were made in November that year. His wonderful power of infusing some of his own enthusiasm into others enabled him, after what seemed insurmountable difficulties, to overcome the bitter opposition of his powerful enemies, to raise with comparative ease the necessary funds. In 1858 De Lesseps had received subscriptions of stock amounting to 200,000,000 francs alone in France, and in 1859 he proceeded to Egypt and planted the Egyptian flag in the harbor of the ancient Pelusium where Port Said now stands.

He again was harrassed by fresh difficulties, chiefly of a political nature. The English press was particularly bitter in its attacks. One leading English journal referred to it as "the monstrous folly of the nineteenth century, never to be completed, or, if finished, to be exhibited as the French folly." However, De Lesseps had both courage and tenacity. Neither the sneers of Stevenson and his associate engineers, nor the heavy broadsides from the "Thunderer" made any impression on the great Frenchman, and the outcome speaks for itself. The first blow struck near Peluse for a new harbor on the Mediterranean shore was on April 21, 1859; the canal of Suez opened for the commerce of the world November 17, 1869, and was almost from the day of its opening a splendid success. This was the triumph of an idea adopted forty years ago, and the result of a ten years' indefatigable struggle.

One curious trait of De Lesseps from youth to age has been his utter incapacity for concealment of his plans or purposes or indirection of any kind. He has always taken the world into his confidence and gone to his object straight as an arrow to its mark with a conviction of his own success which has greatly assisted in the frankness with which he admits the changes of conviction is the keynote of his character. Speaking of miscalculations and failure to carry out his highest ambition, he says: "I cannot see why I should be blamed for not having persevered in following up the erroneous appreciation of the situation. No man is infallible, nor is there any representative man who does not find good cause under altered circumstances to rectify his original impressions without incurring the reproach of inconsistency." Space will not allow a more extended notice of this man of an illustrious past. Let us but hope that he may be granted a few rays of brightness in this encircling gloom ere his weary head is laid to rest in the peacefulness of the tomb.

Lived With a Broken Neck.

Lieut. Clay, U. S. A., is quoted as authority for the following story: At Fort Oklahoma a squad was sent out to haul wood. One of the men got drunk and fell out of the wagon and when his comrades picked him up and placed him on the seat his head rolled around on his shoulders in such a manner that they were completely dumbfounded. One man finally held him in his arms and held his head up until the wagon arrived at the barracks. The drunken man was then placed in the hospital and it was only a few hours before he was sober. The post surgeon then made a wonderful discovery. He found that while the man's body and limbs were dead to all sensations, his head still lived and that he could talk with as much intelligence as he ever did. He seemed to suffer no pain and his mind was perfectly clear. About 48 hours after the accident his head died and a post-mortem examination revealed the fact that the vertebrae were broken off short and that the spinal cord had been partially if not completely severed. The bones were worn greatly where the head had been rolling on his shoulders while on the wagon. The post surgeon states it is one of the most remarkable cases on record and he will make a detailed statement of the case to the surgeon-general.—New Orleans Picayune.

Among Our New York Visitors.

Wool—It is alleged that Christopher Columbus was a pirate.

Van Pelt—How he must regret having to miss being at Chicago.

Children of Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Soller
Altoona, Pa.

Both Had Eczema

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After Physicians Failed, Hood's Sarsaparilla Perfectly Cured.

Great mental agony is endured by parents who see their children suffering from diseases caused by impure blood, and for which there seems no cure. This is turned to joy when Hood's Sarsaparilla is resorted to, for it expels the foul humors from the blood, and restores the diseased skin to fresh, healthy brightness. Read this:

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"We think Hood's Sarsaparilla is the most valuable medicine on the market for blood and skin diseases. Our two children suffered terribly with the

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for two years. We had three physicians, but neither of them succeeded in curing them or even in giving them a little relief. At last we tried Hood's Sarsaparilla and in a month both children were **perfectly cured.** We recommend

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as a standard family medicine, and would not be without it." MR. and MRS. M. M. SOLLER, 1412 2nd Avenue, Altoona, Pa.

HOOD'S PILLS cure Constipation by restoring the peristaltic action of the alimentary canal.

A Clear Case.

The Police Magistrate—Why do you think this broil was brought on by a discussion of political issues?

The Officer—I heard 'em distinctly, your honor. One man says, 'Y'er a liar,' an' the other says, 'Y'er a cut-throat an' horse-thief,' an' then they fit.—Chicago News.

Recent Literature.

Latest Volumes to Be Found on the Blade Book Table.

From J. B Lippincott company, Philadelphia, come two of Capt. King's charming stories of frontier life, "A Soldier's Secret" and "An Army Portia." The book is published in pamphlet form, and though the stories have appeared before in Lippincott's Monthly, they merit a second reading.

"A Colony of Girls," by Kate Livingston Willard, is a charmingly written novel of girl-life. The characters are well drawn, the sentiment of the book pure and beautiful, and the plot interesting and well developed. The book is published in paper cover by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.

"Children of the Ghetto," by I. Zangwill, is a strong and well written novel of Jewish life. The story is published in two handsome volumes by the Jewish Publication of America, 714 Market street, Philadelphia.

"Stereope, the Veiled Prophet," by Mr. William Hayes Acklan, is the story of a Southern girl and the formative influences of her early life. The historical back-ground gives insight into the opinions and customs of the South at that time, its pride of birth and domineering spirit. Gibson Bros., Pub., Washington, D. C.

F. J. Schulte & Co., of Chicago, publish a prettily bound and prettily written book entitled, "The Monk and the Hangman's Daughter," written by Ambrose Bierce and Gustav Adolph Danziger, and illustrated by Theodor Hampe.

"A Confederate Spy, a True and Thrilling Story of the Civil War," by Thomas N. Conrad, is published by J. S. Ogilvie, 57 Rose street, New York.

"Around the Wigwams," is an interesting Indian story written by B. W. Waltermire, and published by The Lotos company, Chicago.

In pamphlet form from Lovell, Coryell & Co., of 43 East Tenth street, New York, comes "The Adventures of John Pas-Pius," by the Marquis of Lorne and "Mea Culpa, a Woman's Last Word," by Sydney Luska.

"Mrs. Bligh," a novel by Rhoda Broughton, is published with paper covers by D. Appleton & Co., New York.

"The Talking Horse," by F. Anstey, is an interesting story, published in pamphlet form by the United States Book Co., 5 East Sixteenth street, New York.

"The Tower of Taddeo," by "Ouida," is a prettily told and well written story by this popular author. The book is published in handsome cloth-binding by the Hovendon company, 17 and 19 Waverly Place, New York.

"The Bunny Stories," by John Howard Jewett, contains the prettiest little stories imaginable for children and is beautifully illustrated by Culmer Barnes. F. A. Stokes & Co., publishers, 27 and 29 West Twenty-third street, New York.

The fourth series of "The Best Reading," is a priced and classified bibliography of the more important English and American publications for the five years ending December 1, 1891. The book, which is edited by Lynds E. Jones, is published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, 27 West Twenty-third street, New York.

"An Artist in Crime," by Rodrigues Ottolengui is an interesting story published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, 27 West Twenty-third street, New York.

"The Woman Who Stood Between," by Minnie Gilmore, is a well written and dramatically told story published in green cloth binding by Lovell, Coryell & Co., 43 East Tenth street, New York.

"Woman—Through a Man's Eye-glass," by Malcolm C. Salaman, is a series of brilliant pen-pictures of charming and lovable women that the author has known. The book is well worth the reading. It is published by Lovell, Coryell & Co., 43 East Tenth street, New York.

"In the Boyhood of Lincoln," by Hezekiah Butterworth, is a beautifully written and beautifully bound volume published by D. Appleton & Co., New York.

"The Lady of the Lake," is published in a new and handsome edition, beautifully illustrated by Frederick A. Stokes Company, 27 and 29 West 23rd street, New York.

"The Sisters, a Tragedy," by Algernon Charles Swinburne, is handsomely published in a new crimson cloth binding by the United States Book Company, 5 and 7 East 16th street, New York.

"Four on an Island," is a charming story for the little folks, handsomely brought out in bule cloth binding by L. T. Mead. The Russell Publishing Co., 104 Fourth avenue, New York.

"Dorothy Q.," together with a ballad of the Boston Tea Party, and Grandmother's Story of Bunker Hill Battle by Oliver Wendell Holmes, with a portrait of Dorothy Q., and with illustrations and decorative borders for the text, with head and tail pieces, by Howard Pyle, is charmingly bound in cloth, from artistic designs by Mrs. Henry Whitman. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., publishers, Boston, Mass.

"Winterborough," by Eliza Orne White, author of "Miss Brooks," is a charming story published in handsome green cloth binding by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., publishers, Boston, Mass.

"The Hoosier Schoolmaster" was the "File-Leader" of the present Dialect Movement in American fiction. Before its appearance the New England dialect had kept the field from Sam Slick's time down. The new Library Edition is beautifully printed and bound, and is worthy of the world-wide fame of this most American of all American books. Published by the Orange Judd Co., New York, N. Y. Price, $1.50 postpaid.

"The Foundations of Rhetoric," by Adams Sherman Hill, is a book containing much valuable information upon the leading facts of English grammar. Harper & Bros., publishers, Franklin Square, New York.

"All Around the Year" is a pretty little calendar illustrated in color by J. Pauline Sunter. The designs are of quaint little lads and lasses issuing each month, with just the right words and just the right attitudes, while the lines on the cards combine to form a pleasing love story. Lee & Shepard, Pubs., 10 Milk street, Boston, Mass.

In the story of "Makers of America," published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York city, comes "Jean Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville," from the facile pen of Grace King, the author of "Monsieur Motti," etc. This volume is peculiarly valuable because so little has been really known of this gentleman who played so important a part in the early history of Louisiana, and the story is gracefully told.

"Elsie at Viamede," by Martha Finley, author of some most popular books for girls, is another excellent story that combines instruction with entertainment. It opens with an excellent description of Jackson's defense of New Orleans, told by the father of the pleasant family with whom the reader delights to become botter acquainted. The book is very interesting throughout, being full of incidents. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.

"Witch Winnie's Studio, or the King's Daughter's Art Life," by Elizabeth W. Champney, author of "Witch Winnie," "Witch Winnie's Mystery," etc., with illustrations by J. Wells Champney, is a story told in the pleasant style of this well known and popular author. It tells the story of some girls who wanted to be artists, and to make a career for themselves, which they succeeded after some trials in doing. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.

"Essays in Literary Interpretation," by Hamilton Wright Mabie. Three of the essays included in the volume were contributed to the Andover Review. Several others were briefly presented in Short Studies in Literature, but are here discussed at greater length and fuller illustrations. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.

"Muriel Howe" is a novel by Angelina Teal, the heroine giving the title of the story. It is well calculated to make an idle hour pass pleasantly. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.

A pamphlet novel comes in "The Golden Library," published by the Price-McGill Co., St. Paul, entitled "Two Men and a Girl," by Franklyn W. Lee.

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TANQUEREY PORTRAIT SOCIETY, 741 DeKalb Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Question Bureau.

Rules.—1.—Real name and address must be written with every question. 2.—Only one question at a time. 3.—Don't ask for addresses of persons, or of firms, nor where to buy or sell anything, for such answers are free advertising. 4.—Don't ask about the reliability of any person or firm. 5.—We reserve the right to reject any question whose answer would not be of general interest and will answer mathematical problems, questions of law, etc. 6.—No answers by mail.

The Cholera.

A. W. F., Devil's Lake, Wis., asks: "Please give some information about the cholera. When are where did the present epidemic start, and what was its course on its way to Europe and America? How long does it take to run its course? What does history say about its origin and progress?"

Asiatic cholera was described by Garcia del Huerto, a physician of Goa, in Hindostan, about 1560. It appeared in India in 1774 and at other times, and became epidemic in Lower Bengal in 1817, whence it gradually spread till it reached Russia in 1823. The next epidemic broke out in Persia in 1829, reached Moscow in 1830, Germany in 1831, and England, France and the United States in 1832. Again, in 1845, it appeared in Meshed, in Persia, which was the cradle of the present outbreak. It did not appear in St. Petersburg until 1848, but thence it traveled rapidly and ravaged Germany, England and the United States in 1849. After 20 years of quiet the disease again broke out in Persia in 1865, and taking a southern route appeared in Egypt, whence it was carried to France, and advancing with unusual rapidity reached the United States the same year, and then swept in the Mississippi valley. It is an established fact that all cholera epidemics originate in Asia and invariably spread in the same directions. Like its predecessors, the present scourge originated in a city where there were great numbers of pilgrims who had assembled from all parts of western and southern Asia. On this occasion the disease first attracted attention in Jessore in the filthy city of Meshed; thence it followed the caravan route to Teheran and to Astrabad on the Caspian sea. Its route was then along the lines of travel to the Russian cities, and it soon appeared in one seaport after another. Thus it has been carefully traced along its fatal line of march to Riga, Hamburg, Bremen, Amsterdam, Antwerp and Havre, from which points it was carried to Glasgow, Swansea, Gravesend and other ports in Great Britain. It is remarkable that cholera has in the past made its appearance in almost the same order as it attacked the different cities. It remains to be seen whether modern sanitary science will be able to check its ravages in the British and American cities.

Government Railways.

J. A. A., Irving, Ill.: The state ownership of railways has been tested in Germany for over forty years. At the very beginning of railroad building (1850) the Prussian government, in return for pecuniary aid, reserved to itself the right of control. In 1848 the government began to construct its own roads and to buy out others. In 1885, out of 19,000 miles of railroad, but 1,000 were in private hands, the rest in the hands of the government. In the last ten years the mileage has increased 33 per cent, and the revenue (according to statistics just published) has increased 41 per cent, while in England and France the mileage has increased 10 per cent, and the revenue but 20 and 3 per cent, respectively. Moreover, it appears that the German lines are operated more economically than in either France or England, the net revenue having increased 23 per cent in Germany, 15 per cent in England, and having slightly decreased in France during the last ten years. The returns on capital invested in German roads was in 1890-91, an average of 4.86 per cent; in English roads, 4.10 per cent; in French roads, 3.75 per cent. Passengers are divided into first, second and third classes. First class tickets are higher than here, but the other classes are cheaper; the accommodations, however, of second and third class are not nearly as good as on American roads. Freight rates are higher than in this country, and freight traffic much slower.

Election of President.

R. T. B., Walnut Grove, O., asks: "Should the President of the United States be elected by the popular vote instead of by the electors?"

You question is one that has long been a theme for discussion. When our forefathers framed the constitution they made few mistakes, and there has been a disinclination to undo their work. When they chose the electoral college method of electing the President instead of by popular vote, they feared the employment of disreputable methods, unworthy men might be chosen for President. They thought the electoral college would guard against that. The election of President by the popular vote would have made no difference in the result this year, but it would have caused a different result in nearly every Presidential election since Grant, because of the fact that the vote of the South is almost solidly Democratic, by reason of the employment of unfair methods, and the suppression of Republican votes.

A Possible Case.

F. S. D., Graham, Ind., asks: "Who would be the next President if Cleveland and Stevenson, after the electoral college met and voted, they were elected, both die before March 4, 1893?"

By an act of Congress, passed in 1792, it is provided that "whenever the offices of President and Vice President shall both be vacant, a special election shall be held. So far as we can ascertain, this law still stands. If so, that answers the question. If, however, it was repealed by the Presidential act passed a few years ago, then the Senate would, on March 4, elect a Vice President, who would become President, in all probability.

Meteoric Showers.

C. J. H., Burton: The meteoric shower of 1832 was eclipsed by the one of '33, which was the most remarkable display on record that was visible all over the United States and a part of Mexico. Together with the smaller shooting stars, which fell like snowflakes producing phosphorescent lines along their course, there were immense large fire balls, which darted forth at intervals leaving behind luminous trains, which remained in view several minutes. At Niagara Falls the spectacle was unusually brilliant. There are no meteoric showers spoken of in the Bible. A falling star is not an unusual occurrence but may be seen any night.

The Panic of 1873.

P. N. P., Stockholm, N. J.: Both branches of the Forty-third Congress elected in 1872 was Republican. Henry Wilson, Vice President, was of course president of the Senate, and James G. Blaine was speaker of the House. The panic of 1873 was caused directly by the over issue of currency and consequent wild speculation. This condition was brought about by the war of the Rebellion. After the states had been reconstructed money was plenty and people began investing it in all sorts of enterprises. A panic is the logical result of a wave of wild speculation.

The Term "Johnny Reb."

G. B. C., Wellsburg, W. Va.: The term "Johnny Reb" was applied to Southern by Northern soldiers during the late war, although we cannot tell you the precise manner in which it was originated. The supposition is as follows, viz.: Confederate soldiers dubbed the Union boys "Yankees," and the latter responded, when addressed in that way on the picket line or elsewhere, with the counter term, "Hello, Johnny." The word "Johnny" is generally applied to a boy, when his real name is unknown, and the expression is thought to have originated that way.

The Monetary Conference.

G. S. S., Tompkinsville, Ky.: The international monetary conference of this year originated with the United States. Several had been previously held, which were discussed in The Blade some three months ago. Eighteen nations were represented. See editorial on "The Monetary Conference" in the Weekly Blade of October 27, 4th page, 6th column. The delegates are paid by the countries sending them. As to results, see editorial, top of 5th column, 4th page, Weekly Blade of December 22.

"Dues" by Mail.

B. J. Mc., Dunlo, Pa.: The law governing the sending of duns to creditors by mail is very explicit. So far as postal cards are concerned, nothing but the actual statement of account can be sent thereon. Anything further will subject the sender to the penalty prescribed by the law. Anything may be sent in a sealed letter, except matter of a threatening or blackmailing character and obscene language. The law states that the envelope enclosing a letter shall not designate the nature of its contents.

The Popular Vote.

W. W. J.: The popular vote of the United States is compiled as follows: When the official vote of any state is made, the result is certified by the secretary of state of that state to the secretary of State at Washington, by whom the entire vote is then compiled. So far the official vote of but 17 states has been filed at Washington. We have repeatedly stated that as soon as the popular vote is known officially, we will promptly print it. We cannot do so before.

Greenbacks.

E. M. Ottumwa, Iowa: When the government issued the first greenbacks during the war, there was nothing back of them except the promise of the government. When the cause of the Union looked gloomiest, the value of these greenbacks deteriorated and at one time went so low, that it took $2.86 in greenbacks to get a dollar in gold. The government had nothing but its promise to secure its currency.

Miscellaneous.

S. B., Grand Rapids, Mich.: Respectfully declined.

J. P. O., Morristown, N. Y.: We do not think it is genuine.

J. H. B., Rockville, Mo.: The World's Fair at Chicago will open on May 1, and close on October 1.

R. D. Y., Foltz, Ind.: We are sorry to state that we cannot possibly find room for the essays you speak of.

L. K., South Salem, O.: "Hohenlinden" was written by Thomas Campbell, the English poet. We cannot publish it.

S. S., Sweet Springs, Mo.: The only way to find the address of a man living in New York is to advertise in the papers of that city.

W. G. E., Bloomdale, O.: Indians on reservations have no vote—only those who have accepted lands in severalty, and have gone to cultivating them, abandoning their tribal relations.

J. E. O., Mellin, W. Va.: There are quite a number of printing offices in the country which run presses by electric motors. Always give your full name when sending queries.

F. S. D., Dunavant, Kas.: In writing a check payable to a minister, the value will neither be enhanced nor diminished by writing the word "Rev." in advance of the name of the payee.

T. J. L., Pemberville, O.: Jay Gould gave $10,000 to the Memphis yellow fever sufferers, and made a number of gifts of that character. He never endowed a school, a library, or anything of that sort.

A. F. F. J., Dorchester, Wis.: We must decline to go into theological discussions in this department. Each American has the right to believe as he wishes on all religious topics, and no one has the right to interfere with him.

W. C. H., Rogersville, Mo.: Gold is the only currency that is recognized by all governments. While each nation has its paper currency, it is not recognized in other countries. The business of the world is conducted on a gold basis.

D. S., Frugality, Pa.: Had the rebellion been a success instead of a failure, there would have been two governments instead of one, the United States, and Confederate States of America. The object of the South was to set up a distinctly separate government, with slavery for its cornerstone.

E. C. N., Albany, Mo.: The series of resolutions you send, against secret societies, are simply silly. No Roman Catholic is allowed to join the Masons, or any other secret society, and if the good people who adopted them would exercise far more Christian charity, they would come nearer the great ideal, Christ himself.

H. C., Pratt, Kan.: The first tariff law that Washington signed was protective and its title stated that it was for the protection of American manufactures. The fathers of the republic clearly saw that American manufactures must be protected against those of foreign countries. All industries were protected by this law.

G. W. C., Weston, Ill.: Some of the best watches in use are made in this country. Years ago it was thought that unless a watch was made in Switzerland, it was of no service, but when American brains and American industry went to work that illusion was soon dispelled. There are no better watches made anywhere, than are manufactured in the United States.

IN AGONY FOR ONE NIGHT.

An Opium Fiend's Description of How He Freed Himself from the Habit.

One day I realized, writes a former victim of the opium habit in the Spectator, that my word was no longer a symbol of truth, and the moral nature that I had not quite drowned leaped up in the dark and called me "liar" to my face. Then I awoke, and for the first time for many a day I prayed. Then also came the resolve—the determined resolve, come what may—to be done with this damnable tyranny. At 6 o'clock that evening I took a hearty meal of meat, principally, and a little, very little, red wine. It was June 10, 1868. I had determined to walk into the summer night, walk till I die if necessary, but walk till I won my battle, if I lived through the ordeal. I left my watch at home, that I might not pawn it for opium; I took no money with me, even as I left home and struck across the downs, I felt the craving coming on (the hour for my penultimate day dose was at hand), and I knew my temptation was with me, and realized how long and bitter the struggle was to be. The craving seemed to me a palpable shape that walked beside me—a presence that outran me and lost me, and came back to me like a faithful dog that would not lose or leave me, that I could not lose or leave! Sometimes I sung, sometimes I raved and swore, sometimes I prayed and wept, but never once, thank God, did my resolution falter.

Much of that night I cannot remember. Dim things came back to me at times—such as a fall I had once, hurting my knee. I think I frightened some one who asked me some question, and I believe I can recollect that I myself grew at one time full of fear—fear of hurting myself, not others; and then I suffered thirst—such thirst, such awful thirst—but I must have slaked it somewhere, for in the morning my clothes and necktie were all wet, and so was my hair.

At 7 in the morning of the next day I found myself leaning on a gate and looking out on the lands spread before me with a sort of curious wonder as to how I came there; my head dropped on my hands. I slept for (I think) only a few minutes, and awoke quite well. Since that day I have never touched it, and have never been tempted to touch it. Of course, I am quite well aware that the doses to which I had become accustomed were not very large, but I am also sure that they were on the increase, and having told my experience lately to a distinguished English physician, he begged me, for the sake of others, to put on record these plain and simple facts.

This I now do, and if I do so anonymously it is only because I believe that no further good could follow the knowledge of my identity or name.

A LESSON FOR BARBERS.

What the Bald-Headed Man Said About an Unnecessary Question.

The bald-headed man with four days' growth of beard on his chin went into a barber shop and sat down in one of the operating chairs. To him presently went a knight of the razor, who remarked, interrogatively:

"Shave, sir?"

"No," growled the man in the chair. "I want to be measured for a suit of clothes."

This statement seemed to surprise the barber, but he managed to say:

"This isn't a tailor shop."

"Isn't it?"

"No."

"What is it?"

"It's a barber shop."

"What sort of work do you do in this shop?"

"Shave men and cut their hair.'

"Do you think a man with no hair on his head would come in here to have his hair cut?"

"No, sir."

"Do I look like a lunatic?"

This was replied to by a silent shake of the head, but the barber doubtless thought he was acting like one.

"Then, presuming me to be a sane man, but bald-headed, what would you naturally suppose I came here for?"

"For a shave."

"Then, my dear sir, why did you ask me if I wanted a shave, when I took a seat in your chair? Why didn't you go right to work? If some of you barbers would cultivate a habit of inferring, from easily ascertained data, instead of developing such wonderful conversational and catechetical powers, it would be of material aid in advancing you in your chosen vocation, and of expanding your bank account. Do you comprehend?"

"Yes, sir," replied the man, as he began to lather the customer's face in a dazed sort of way, and he never even asked him if he wanted oil on his hair when the operation was performed.—New York Recorder.

—Scrofula, whether hereditary or acquired, is thoroughly expelled from the blood by Hood's Sarsaparilla, the great blood purifier.

Where the Hyphen Is.

She (of Chicago)—Don't you think I ought to make a great football player?

He (of St. Louis)—A great foot ball player, did I understand you to say?—Detroit Free Press.

The Farmstead.

A Talk With Farmstead Readers.

The editor wants you to write for the Farmstead department of The Blade. Tell what kind of stock you raise, and the manner of breeding. If you raise fruit, what kind, and how do you plant, trim and protect from insects? Poultry is also a good subject to write about. Do you raise vegetables? Tell how you do it. Potatoes, corn and grasses are subjects that will interest. There are a thousand things you can write about, and if you take the proper interest the Blade Farmstead will have increased value.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Sow With Cough.

F. C., Indiana:—Your sow is suffering from that which is called in some states "rising of the lights." The pen must be clean, well bedded and warm. Rub moistened mustard flour into the throat and chest. Give an ounce of Rochelle salts in soft feed, and afterward put an ounce of tar on the back of the tongue once a day for three days. Good nursing, that is a warm pen, is half the cure. Look well to the feed. No mouldy corn or other grain must be given, but a sufficiency of food at regular hours is necessary.

Locoed Colts.

E. D. S., Kansas:—As your colts have not been severely poisoned with loco, they will gradually recover under good care. See that there is none of the weed in the hay you feed them. You are advised to give each colt, if more than a year old, a pint of raw linseed oil. Afterward, for a week or so, give each one a quart of milk to drink every day. Keep their bowels regular. As you have not given the ages of your colts, the above treatment is all the editor can recommend. Loco affects the brain and nerves, and like opium, will kill if taken too freely. Loco is different from opium, in that its effects last longer.

Scours in Colts—Barley.

A. M., Indiana:—Scours in colts and grown horses is due to eating moldy or musty food, drinking stagnant water, exposure during cold nights, worms, foreign substances in the intestines, and other causes. Give each of your colts a pint of raw linseed oil. Afterward give, mixed in the food, twice a day, powdered chalk, 3-4 oz.; bisulphate of soda, 3-4 oz. To be repeated until the scouring is checked. Examine the sheaf oats for mold, and see that the water they drink is pure. The colts may be troubled with worms. You can tell if they are by examining the feces after they take the oil. Barley might do fairly well in your section, although not so well as in other sections of the country. Two to three bushels are sown to the acre, poor and mellow soils and early sown, requiring the least. It may be sown as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry in the spring, on a grass or clover lay turned over the preceding fall. If sown on a sod, it should be lightly plowed in, but not so deep as to disturb it, and afterwards harrowed or rolled. Barley should never follow the other white grains, nor should they succeed each other, unless upon very rich soil. Barley requires a lighter soil than will grow good wheat, and a heavier one than will grow a fair crop of rye. In all cases the soil must be well drained.

Is Bran a Good Milk Feed?

A correspondent of the Rural New Yorker says: I owned a share in a flouring mill and ran a farm at the same time, shipping milk to Chicago. Occasionally the mill had some surplus bran and I was allowed to get a load. This I fed to my cows, always feeding it as I would hay or straw. My usual feed was four quarts of corn and oats twice a day; when I had bran I fed at each feed two quarts more. When the bran gave out, the usual four quarts of meal were given, nothing being allowed for the missing bran. My hay was always cut early, commencing about June 20, and was generally good; corn stalks and Hungarian grass were also fed, but were only snuffed over, and found their way into the manure pile. The bay was fed ad libitum—all they could stuff. In shipping milk, there was often an anxiety to keep up the number of cans, particularly in hot weather when a shortage of a quart or two would keep a can at home and diminish the profit. Now, although this feeding of bran was of frequent occurrence, I never saw any increase of the milk or any decrease from its discontinuance. I have frequently spoken of this to dairymen, only to be scouted at, as in the opinion of a very large majority, "wheat bran is the stuff to make milk of;" but, once in a while, I have met men whose experience had been the same as mine. But bran is a fine feed where it is clean and wholesome, as it is healthy and a grand fertilizer.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Rabbits Gnawing Apple Trees.

Editor Farmstead:—To drive rabbits away from apple trees, first, cut some nice buds from the trees; then take some powdered strychnine, wet the buds and lay them in the strychnine. Lay these buds where the rabbits will find them—say near the tree or near the path of the rabbits. After they have eaten the buds they will nibble no more. Sometimes, in case of a cunning old fellow, it is best to scrape a little dark substance in the strychnine.—A Billings, South Dakota.

Editor Blade Farmstead:—Take good, sound lath; have them ripped in two longthwise, in the center. Then get some strips of tin cut out at the tin shop, 7 to 7 1-2 inches long and 3-4 inch wide; place 10 strips of the lath side by side and nail a strip of the tin across the top, bottom and center, and it is ready to put around the tree until the two sides meet, and by a little pressure by the hands it will form a perfect circle. Then take small wire and twist around the top and bottom of the cage, outside, and it is done.

This forms a cage that is proof against rabbits and is also a protection from the cold in winter and hot sun in summer. It will also keep sheep and calves from injuring the trees. It costs here for material for one cage, 1 1-2 cents, and we get them made up by boys for 1 1-2 cents, making the total cost 3 cents.—R. B. Odle, Lapeer, Mich.

Fruit for Food.

Fruit culture should be quite as closely associated with family use as with market. I have eaten apples all my life, but never learned how to make the best use of them till last winter; it is worth living half a century to find out the real value of this fruit. Now we eat apples half an hour before our meals instead of afterward. We eat all we want before breakfast and before dinner. The result has been so decidedly in favor of the fruit diet that we have very largely dropped meat. The action of the acid is then admirable in aiding digestion while if eaten after meals the apple is likely to prove a burden. We follow the same line in using grapes, pears, cherries and berries.

If disturbed by a headache or dyspepsia in summer, I climb a cherry tree and eat all I can reach and relish. In order to have cherries all summer I cover a dozen trees with mosquito netting to keep off the birds. Currants and gooseberries I find very wholesome eaten raw from the bushes before going to the dining table. Nature has prepared a large amount of food already cooked, exactly fitted for all demands of the human system. Our kitchen cooking never equals nature's. I am by no means a vegetarian or a fruitarian, but am convinced that we have not yet measured the value of fruit as a diet with milk, eggs and vegetables. Some one being told that such food would not give a workman muscular strength, pointed to his adviser's oxen, saying, "Yet these oxen can eat no meat."—American Gardening.

WRINKLES, and hollow cheeks, and dull, sunken eyes, don't always mean that a woman's old. Half the time, they only show that she's overworked or suffering. To such women, to every woman who is tired or afflicted, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription safely and certainly brings back health and strength. It's a legitimate medicine that corrects and cures; a tonic that invigorates and builds up; a nervine that soothes and strengthens. For all the derangements, irregularities and weaknesses peculiar to women, it is the only *guaranteed* remedy. If it doesn't benefit or cure, you have your money back.

It won't do to experiment with Catarrh. There's the constant danger of driving it to the lungs. You can have a perfect and permanent cure with Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy.

Keep the Hens Warm.

It matters not how abundantly the food may be supplied, no flock of hens will lay regularly in winter unless they are provided with warm and comfortable quarters. It is not necessary to have a stove in the poultry house, but every crack and crevice should be closed. The animal heat of the bodies of the fowls will aid in increasing the temperature, and the mistake should not be made of ventilating the house except by leaving the door and windows open during the day. In a cold climate the cold air will find its way inside soon enough without affording openings for that purpose. The house should be closed completely at night. There need be no fear in regard to ventilation, as no poultry house is so tight and close as to cause inconvenience on cold nights. No flock of hens can lay if the poultry house is cold, as it requires too much food to create warmth for their bodies. They will be unable to produce eggs simply because the cold takes from them the elements that should be devoted to egg production. Warm shelter, therefore, saves food, and it is much cheaper to make the poultry house warm than to purchase warmth in the shape of grain.—Mirror.

Protection for Small Fruit.

In the dry climate of South Dakota it is advisable to cover the small fruits wherever possible, to save them from the evaporation that is going on even during the cold

Talmage's Sermon.

A HOLIDAY SEASON SERMON.

The Steps of the Old Year Are Now Getting Short and Tottering For It is Near the End.

The text selected by Dr. Talmage this week was, Colossians ii: 16: "In respect of a holy day."

What the Bible here and elsewhere calls a holy day, we, by change of one letter and change of pronunciation, call holiday. But, by change of spelling and accentuation, we can not change the fact that holidays have great significance. As long as the world stands, Christmas day, and New Year's day, and Easter day will be changed and unchanged with solemn suggestiveness and holy mirth. Whether you take the old style of my text and call them holydays, they somehow set all my nerves a-tingle and my deeper emotions into profoundest agitation. I am glad that this season we have the holidays completely bounded. For years, Christmas day, strating in the midst of the week, and New Year's day, starting in the midst of another week, we have been perplexed to know when the holidays began and when they ended, and perhaps we may have begun them too soon and continued them too long. But this year they are bounded by two beaches of gold: Sabbath, December 25, 1892, and Sabbath, January 1, 1893. The one Sabbath this year commemorates the birth of the greatest being that ever walked the earth; the other celebrates the birth of that which is to be one of the greatest years of all time. The one day supernatural because of an unhinged star and angelical doxology, and the other day natural, but part of a procession that started with the world's existence, and willgo on until the world is burned up; both the first and the last days of those holidays coming in with Sabbatical splendor and solemnity, and girdling all the days between with thoughts that have all time and all eternity in their emphasis. How shall we spend them? At haphazard and without special direction, and they leaving, as they go away from us, physical fatigue and mental exhaustion, the effect of late hours and recklessness of diet, adding another chapter to the moral and spiritual and eternal disasters, which have resulted from 'misspent holidays? Oh, no! A stout and resounding No! for all the eight days.

I propose that we divide this holiday season, the two Sabbaths of the holiday and the six days between, into three chapters. The first part a chapter of illustrious birthday; the second part a chapter of annual decadence; the third part a chapter of chronological introduction.

First, then, a chapter of illustrious birthday. Not a day of any year but has been marked by the nativity of some good or great soul. Among discoverers, the birthday of Humboldt was September 14, and of David Livingston March 19. Among astronomers the birthday of Isaac Newton was December 25, and of Herschel November 17. Among orators, the birthday of Cicero was January 3, and of Chrysostom January 14. Among prison reformers the birthday of John Howard was September 2, and of Elizabeth Fry August 21. Among painters, the birthday of Raphael was March 28 and of Michael Angelo, March 6. Among statesmen, the birthday of Washington was February 22, of Hamilton May 8, and of Franklin January 17. Among consecrated souls, the birthday of Mrs. Hemans was September 25, of Lucretia Mott January 3, and of Isabella Graham July 29. But what are all these birthdays compared with December 25, for on or about that day was born one who eclipsed all the great names of all the centuries—Jesus of Bethlehem, Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus of Golgotha, Jesus of Olivet, Jesus of the heavenly throne? The greatest pictures have been made about scenes in his lifetime. The greatest sacrifices on field of battle or hospital or long march or in martyrdom have been inspired by this self-abnegation. The truest words of eloquence ever spoken have been uttered in the proclamation of this one name. The sweetest notes that have ever rolled from the orchestra were descriptive of his life and death. There have been other orators, but none like him who "spake as never man spake." There have been other reformers, but none like him who will not have completed his mission until the last prison is ventilated and the last blind eye opened and the last fetter unclasped and the last lame foot bounds like a roe and the last case of dementia shall come to its right mind. There have been other discoverers, but none like him, able to find how many men are in jail with God. There have been other deliverers, but none like him, the rescuer of nations. There have been other painters, but none like him put the image of God on lost soul. Some one celebrate his birth, Protestant church, Catholic church, Greek church, St. Isaac's of St. Petersburg, St. Peter's at Rome, the Madeleine at Paris, St. Paul's in London, Trinity and Grace Episcopal cathedrals and churches, and log-cabin meeting-houses and homes in keeping this pre-eminent birth festival.

You see, the birth at Bethlehem must have been as startling to the heavens than the crucifixion on Calvary. It was expected that Christ would be maltreated. The world always had had treated with brutality its great souls. Joseph hurled into the pit. Shadrach put into the fire, Jeremiah lowered into a dungeon, David hounded from the throne, Elijah compelled to starve or take his food from the beak of a hungry raven, and Socrates condemned to death, so that the Calvarian massacre was in the same old line of maltreatment. But the novelty of all the ages was the conjunction of divinity and humanity. Invisible deity, muscled and nerved and fleshed in masculine physique. A child and yet a god. Why, if the meteor had not pointed down that night, some angel would have rushed down and pointed with fire glittering scepter, or Isaiah and David and Ezekiel, who foretold the coming, would have descended from their thrones and stood on the roof of the barn or in some way designated the honored birthplace. As the finger of light that December 25 pointed to the straw cradle, now all the fingers of christendom this moment, fingers of childhood and old age, fingers of sermon and song and decoration and festivity point to the great straw cradle. Am I not right in saying that the first three chapters of the holidays should be devoted to the illustrious birthday? By song and prayer and solemn reflection and charities to-day, and by gifts and trees that bear fruit in an hour after they are planted, and family good cheer and hilarity resounding from cellar to garret to-morrow, keep Christmas. As far as possible, gather the children and the grandchildren, but put no estopple on racket, whether of laughter or swift feet or toys in shape of rail-trains or trumpets or infant effigy. Let the old folks for one day at least say nothing about rheumatism, or prospect of early demise, or the dozen ailments of modern times, or the poison of confectionery. If you can not stand the noise, retire from it for a little while into some other room and stop your ears. Christmas for children without plenty of noise is no Christmas at all. If children and grandchildren can not have full swing during the holidays, when will they have it? They will be soon enough, and their feet will slacken their pace, and the burdens of life will bear them down. Houses get awfully still when the children are gone. While they stay, let them fill the room with such resounding mirth that you can hear the echoes twenty years after they are dead. By religious celebration to-day, and by domestic celebration to-morrow, keep Christmas. As for our beloved church we to-morrow night come to set the children of our Sabbath school wild with delight, and in the Christian Herald, with which I am connected, we are celebrating the holidays by sending out from 2,000 to 4,000 Bibles a day, and other will continue to go out by express, by messengers and by mails until we have distributed at least 100,000 copies of the good old book on which Christmas is built, and which gives the only healthful interpretation of these swift flying years.

The second chapter of the holidays must speak of annual decadence. This is the last Sabbath of the year. The steps of the year are getting short, for it is old now. When it waved the spring time blossoms, the year was young, and when it swung the scythe and cradle through the summer harvest fields, the year was strong; but it is getting out of breath now, and after six more throbs of the pulse will be dead. We can not stop this annual decadence. Set all the clocks back, set all the watches back, set all the chronometers back, but you can not set time back. For the old family clock you might suppose that time would have especial respect, and that if you took hold of those old hands on the face of that centenarian of a timepiece, and pushed them back, you might expect that time would stop or retreat for at least a few minutes. "No! no!" says the old family clock. "I must go on. I saw your father and mother on their wedding day. I struck the hour of your nativity. I counted the festal hours of the day in which you brought home a bride. I sounded the knell at your father's death. I tolled at your mother's departure. Yes, I must sound your own going out of life. I must go on. I must go on. Tick-tock! Tick-tock!"

Sorry am I to have 1892 depart this life. It has been a good year. What bright days! What starry nights! What harvests! What religious convocations! What triumphs of art and science and invention and enterprise and religion! But, alas, how sacred it has been with sorrows. What pillows hot with fever that could not be cooled! What graves opening wide enough to lay down beauty and strength and usefulness! What octogenarians putting down the staff of earthly pilgrimage and taking the crown of heavenly reward! What children, as in Bible times, carried "head, my head!" And they carried him to his mother and he sat on her knees until noon, and then died." This year went the chief poet of England and the chief poet of America, Tennyson and Whittier—great in literature and simple as a child—for did I not spend an afternoon with him in a barn in the Adirondacks, and in the evening we played blind-man's buff, he flying over my eyes the handkerchief, while the hotel parlors rang with the merry-making. And Tennyson, this year gone; he who for this particular season of the year wrote:

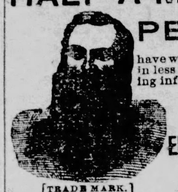
Ring out wild bells to the wild sky,
The dying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night.
Ring out wild bells, and let him die.

What mingling of emotions in this closing year. What orange blossoms for the marriage altar, and what myrtle for the tombs of the dead. Hosannas and lamentations in collision. Anthem and dead march among the same ivory keys. Before this year quite leaves the earth, let it hear our repentance for opportunities that can never return. Kind words spoken, sins of omission and of action all. Means of getting good or doing good so completely gone by that the archangel's voice could not recall them. Can it be that this year is dead and our sins are unforgiven, and we have no certainty that when our last December the 31st has sped away, we shall enter a blissful eternity? The most overwhelmingly solemn week of all the year is the last week in December.

Thus in three chapters I have counseled that the holidays be grouped. May nothing interfere with their felicities. May they be so many that they will be food for pleasant reminiscence further on. You know that after awhile the old homestead will be broken up. For years and years the children come home to spend the holidays, and then one is runaway, and then a garret to cellar, and the sons of childhood are rehearsed and we laugh till the tears come as we talk over some boyish or girlish freak, or cry over some old trouble that will not bear to be swung back again to mirth, for it does not take a half-second for a tear of the eye to strike the smile of the lip. For a few years the grandchildren make us hold high merry. One of the many uses of grandchildren is to keep old folks young. Then, after a few years, the annual gathering at the old homestead is half broken up, for father or mother is gone. About all there is after for there are generally about two years between the time of their going; the other half of the holiday season is broken up. Then the old house goes into the possession of strangers and the sons and daughters by that time have homes of their own. They plant their own Christmas trees, and hang up their own children's stockings, and twine their own holly and mistletoe, and have their own good times. They will, perhaps, be riding out on some of those holidays, either in sleigh or carriage two or thirty years from now along the place where we slumber the last sleep, and may we have been so considerate and sympathetic in our demeanor toward them now, that they will then say one to another, as they pass the silent mounds of the village graveyard or city cemetery: "There rest as kind a father and as kind a mother as ever wished their children a Merry Christmas or a Happy New Year."

Meanwhile we, their parents and grandparents, will, I hope, through the atonement of our blessed Lord, be keeping holidays liveller, and higher up, in the presence of the very Christ whose birth the earthly Christmas commemorates, and of the "Ancient of Days" who saw the first year open, and will see the last year close; in companionship with the ever-widening circle of lovely kindred, many already there and many soon to come; and the tables of that festivity will purple with the grapes of Eschol, and redden with "the new wine of the kingdom," and glow with "twelve manner of fruits" from the trees of life, and the gifts of those holidays will be mansions and thrones, and crowns of glory that never fade away. Oh, my dear, those delightful holidays of earth may fit us for those more delightful holidays of heaven!

HALF A MILLION PEOPLE



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bladder gently and blow a small bubble. It will fall to the bottom of the other and stay there without breaking it. You must be careful to blow the smaller bubble lighter than the larger. In order to do this shake out the water from your tube before blowing the smaller bubble.

Here are some hints for getting a good mixture from which to blow bubbles: Dissolve about an ounce of the strongest washing soap in a pint of distilled water, or, in the absence of that, rain water. Cork it well and keep it in a cool place. At the end of eight days it will be in good condition for use. Only pour out as much at one time as you need for your experiments. It may thus be made to last for a very long time.

Chickens or Bases.

"No; the negro will never make a base ball player."

"Why not, pray?"

"You never can convince him that the time to make a home run isn't when he gets a fowl out."—Puck.

Spirited Acting.

Rivers (at the play)—That fellow imitates a drunken man to perfection.

Banks—He does make a pretty good stagger at it.—Chicago Tribune.

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The Camp Fire.

Contributions are solicited from old soldiers of the civil war for this department. We don't want discussions, but want brief, lively sketches and personal reminiscences of army life; all such are welcome.

A Night of Losses.

Editor Camp Fire:—Having been a reader of The Blade for a number of years, and seeing nothing in the Camp Fire from any of my regiment, I thought I would contribute a top rail to draw out some of the boys. I am not going to criticise any of the former contributors as to who was the youngest soldier, or who fired the first shot at any particular battle. It seems to me to matter but little now as to that. We were all younger then than now, and all fired as many first shots as we could. I served four years in what was sometimes called "Farnsworth's Big Abolitionists," and sometimes called "Farnsworth's Thieves." In the spring of 1862, during the "On to Richmond" campaign, my company, B, were out on a reconnoisance on the right, as the command was on the march. As we came up to a house, a woman told us there had been a man prowling around there, and was then hiding in the field near by. She was sure he was a Union soldier trying to make his way to the rebel lines. We soon found him. He admitted the charge; said he belonged to the 2nd Vermont; that he was sorry he attempted to desert, and would like to go back to his regiment. Capt. W—took a revolver from him (all the arms he possessed) handed it to Sergeant D., telling him to take three men, obtain a mount for the prisoner, and bring him into camp. The sergeant detailed three men, one being myself, and started with the prisoner, while Capt. W. proceeded to reconnoiter further to the right. Sergeant D. and squad succeeded in obtaining a dilapidated old mule, and mounted the prisoner astride him without saddle or bridle. One of us led the mule by a rope around his neck, while another whacked the mule with his saber. Night coming on, and it being very dark, we could not find our regiment, but finding the division to which we belonged, we concluded to camp by ourselves until morning. In the meantime, while we were debating this question, Mr. Prisoner slipped off the mule, and we failed ever afterward to discover his whereabouts.

The bugles sounding early in the morning, we awoke to find our mule gone. Sergeant D. began to look blue. In an hour or two we overtook our company on the march. I slipped into my place in the ranks, as did the other two men, while Sergeant D. rode to the head of the company to report to Capt. W. "Well," said the captain, "where have you been all night?" "We got lost, and could not find our company, so camped in the woods until morning." "Where is the prisoner?" "Well, he slipped off the mule in the darkness while we were going into camp, and we lost him." "The d—l!" says the captain. "Where is the mule?" "He broke his halter in the night, and we lost him." "Well, where is that revolver I took from the prisoner, and gave you?" says Cap, now beginning to lose his temper. "I am sorry, Cap, but I lost that, too." "Damnation!" says Cap, "get into your place before you lose yourself!" Sergeant D. took his place, looking much chagrined, while I and the other two men were glad we were only high privates, with no responsibility. Now "Brigadier," if you or "Union Jack" should see this, let me know if I have made any mistakes in this recital. Would be glad to hear from any or all the boys of Co. B, through the Camp Fire.—W. L. Truman, Corporal, Co. B, 5th Ills. Cav.

A Sad Incident.

Editor Camp Fire:—About the saddest thing I ever encountered was a pathetic little incident on the battle-field after the siege of Atlanta. It was night, and I had been ordered to go out and work on a casemate near the enemy's lines. They knew we were there, for they kept up a ping, ping, ping of minie balls, now and then varying the amusement by sending a hot 10-pounder, scorching the ground and playing havoc with the bushes unpleasantly close to our ears. As I was running about suddenly one of our boys rushed up and said: "There's a dying man wants to see you, captain. You'd better come quick, for he's got a hole through his head." I hastened in the direction he indicated, and soon found the poor fellow. He was being propped up by a corporal, but by the way he acted and talked I knew he was settled for. "They've got me this time, captain," he said slowly, the blood choking him as he spoke. He'd been wounded a couple of times before, and was a brave man and a good one, too. I said what I could in the line of sympathy, telling him that it was the fate of war, and that all his old comrades would follow him sooner or later. It was only a matter of a few days anyhow. "I want you to do me a favor, captain," he said, the death sweat on his forehead shining like beads in the fitful gleam of a candle we had lighted. "Of course, I'll do it, my boy," I said. "There's my knapsack and canteen;" he choked pitifully, "take them or send them to my poor old father and mother up in Vermont. Tell 'em that their only son died like a soldier on the field of battle. Tell them that I died thinking of them; and, and, and, there's another matter, another—." Here a stream of blood gushed from his lips, and his eyes took on a look of horror that almost frightened me. "Another matter," he gasped, "another matter—matter. Reach down in my blouse and get a picture that is there." I did as directed, and saw in the faint light that the careworn face of a young woman. "It's, it's the girl I was going to marry," sobbed the dying man. "Tell her that, that I died with my lipss on hers! Put the picture to my lips, captain, that I may, may kiss it!" He kissed the senseless cardboard over and over again, and though I turned my face reverently away I caught a glimpse of the love-lit eyes that told his devotion. As he caressed the likeness for the last time the ambulance drove up and he was tenderly loaded in for the hospital, where his last moments must be but at any rate a little less painful than on the rough rock-strewn battle ground. The first chance I got I sent that knapsack and that sweet face to the ones who loved the loved the soldier. That isn't all of the story. In October, if I recollect aright, just before the battle of Altoona, and after Gen. Hood swung round to Grant's rear, I was riding along a very dusty road with my company. Suddenly I saw a spectacle before me that nearly knocked me off my horse. There in the middle of the road, with his arms wildly waving toward me, was that same dying soldier. His hand was bandaged up, and when he spoke his voice was much impeded. "I've got a furlough," he said, trying to grin good-naturedly, but failing because of the bandages wound round his face, "I've got a furlough and I'm going home to marry that girl." And he did.—W. R. H.

A Chunk From Tennessee.

Editor Camp Fire:—I wish to stir the fire a little once more. I suppose every company in the army had its wag, and I think the wags in the army had a very salutary effect on the boys. Often, when we were almost ready to give up in despair from weariness, hunger and thirst, some fellow would say or do something that would raise a laugh, put new life in the boys, and we would go on the rest of that day all right.

A. L. Cassaday was the wag of my company. He was just a boy, about 18 years old, a long, gangling, big jointed, red headed, freckled face fellow; a good soldier, and in the main a good fellow. He was also a good fiddler, but he had a great deal of trouble with his

77 YEARS OLD

I am seventy-seven years old, and have had my age renewed at least twenty years by the use of Swift's Specific. My foot and leg to my knee was a running sore for two years, and physicians said it could not be cured. After taking fifteen small bottles S. S. S. there is not a sore on my limbs, and I have a new lease on life. You ought to let all sufferers know of your wonderful remedy.

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Indignant Comrades.

Editor Camp Fire:—The following preamble and resolution adopted by Col. Jewell Post, Myrtle Point, Oregon, shows the feeling of Pacific Coast comrades on the desecration of soldiers' graves in Indiana:

Headquarters Col. Jewell Post, No. 53, G. A. R., Department of Oregon.

Whereas, It has come to the knowledge of this post that the graves of deceased Union soldiers and comrades in the state of Indiana have been desecrated, and the flag of our nation insulted by the same element that prevailed in '61-'65 in the northern border states, and who declared the war a failure, and who demanded the recall of the Union army, now demands the attention of the old boys in blue. Therefore, be it

Resolved, by Col. Jewell post, in regular session, that we heartily sympathize with the friends of the deceased soldiers whose graves are desecrated, and as strongly condemn the action of the perpetrators in mutilating the flag of our country, and denounce them as traitors to the best nation on the face of the earth and unworthy of American citizenship.

Cutting Down Pensions.

Editor Camp Fire:—It is time all old soldiers should begin to look and see who it is that are trying to cut down pensions and starve the men who fought in the late war just as they are ready to die of old age. Old soldiers should see who these parties are who are trying to tinker with the pensions, and make a list of them and vote against them, let them be candidates for any office from township to national.—G. P. L., Co. C, 12th Md. Inf.

"Brown's Bronchial Troches" are excellent for the relief of Hoarseness or Sore Throat. They are exceedingly effective."—Christian World, London, Eng.

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is Manufactured on Scientific Principles. Highly Digestible and Nutritious, known all over the civilized Globe as the Peer of all Cocoas.

The Sunday School.

LESSON II., JANUARY 8, 1893.

Rebuilding the Temple.

Golden Text—They praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.—Ezra iii, 11.

LESSON TEXT.

(Ezra iii, 1-13.)

1. And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem.

2. Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren and builded the altar of the God of Israel to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God.

3. And they set the altar upon his bases; for fear was upon them because of the people of those countries: and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto the Lord, even burnt offerings morning and evening.

4. They kept also the feast of tabernacles, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required;

5. And afterward offered the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of the Lord that were consecrated, and of every one that willingly offered a freewill offering unto the Lord.

6. From the first day of the seventh month began they to offer burnt offerings unto the Lord. But the foundation of the temple of the Lord was not yet laid.

7. They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, unto them of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant that they had of Cyrus king of Persia.

8. Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the Lord.

9. Then stood Jeshua with his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together, to set forward the workmen in the house of God: the sons of Henadad, with their sons and their brethren the Levites.

10. And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord, after the ordinance of David king of Israel.

11. And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord; because he is good, for his mercy endureth forever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

12. But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of the house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:

13. So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

Illustrative Applications.

The people gathered themselves together as one man (v. 1). Work to be well done must be done by one man, or as if it were done by one man. Whether there be one man or many men, there must be one heart and one mind to the work in hand, or that work will not go forward as it ought to. There may be safety in a multitude of counselors; but not if they all advise a different course, and the attempt is made to follow accordingly. There is no safety in divided counsels, in disagreement in action. All must come together in opinion, and finally act together—as one man. This is as true now as in the days of Ezra; as true in laying new foundations of character and conduct in the beginning of the year 1893, as in laying new temple foundations more than twenty centuries ago. There is a call on the Sunday schools and on the churches of the United States to join in prayer and effort for a revival of God's work, and to continue in this supplication and endeavor during all the month of January. Now let all the teachers, all the scholars, and all the other people, gather themselves together as one man to this work, and the blessing of God will not be withheld.

They set the altar upon its base; for fear was upon them because of the people of the countries (v. 3). A sense of personal danger is a great quickener of religious zeal. When men realize that they cannot take care of themselves, they are quite willing to ask God to take care of them. Thunder and lightning, flying bullets, yellow fever, and cholera, are calls to prayer heard by many who pay no attention to the silver trumpets of God's inviting love. "Uncle John is mighty pious winters!" said a young man of an old relative who was in very poor health, and had thoughts of dying, at the approach of cold weather. There have been a great many altars set up, churches built, colleges endowed, gifts made to the poor, words of penitence spoken, and pitiful prayers offered, under the influence of fear of bodily harm, fear of death, fear of God's judgment. It is a good thing to set up an altar on its base. It is a shame that men have to be frightened into so good an act as this.

As the duty of every day required (v. 4). Each day has its own duty—a duty which cannot be done before or after that day. Yesterday's dinner will not satisfy to-day's hunger. To-day's dinner will not suffice for to-morrow also. If you were honest and truthful and pure yesterday, your duty to be the same is on you to-day. What if you were an obedient child, a studious scholar, a conscientious, careful workman, a considerate, helpful, devoted friend yesterday? That will not answer for to-day. Are you doing as the duty of to-day requires? That is the practical question.

Every one that willingly offered a freewill offering unto the Lord (v. 5). What a man gives under pressure of fear, or of desire for popular applause, or in the hope of return, cannot fairly be set to his charity account. He deserves no credit for its giving. It may, indeed, help forward temple building, or mission work, or aid in paying church expenses; it may clothe the naked, or feed the hungry, or shelter the homeless; but no thanks to him for that. He wouldn't have given if he could have helped it. He would have held back the money if he had dared to. What the Lord wants is a freewill offering willingly offered. Unless a man can give that, his giving is no giving. "God loveth a cheerful giver." No other giver has any smile of approval from him.

They sang one to another in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord (v. 11). Praising God is as much a duty as praying to God. It is as important to give thanks when a blessing is received, as to ask for it while it is yet lacking. And all should join heartily and harmoniously in God's praises. Discordant praise is no more acceptable than are divided counsels efficient. God's people should be concordant in working, in giving, and in praising.

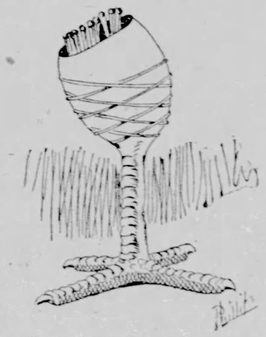
The old men that had seen the first house when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice (v. 12). The old men who are thinking of the good old days of long ago have no share in the joy over new foundations, or over fresh signs of progress. Their faces are to the past. They are always ready to cry over a memory, but never to thank God for a hope. No matter what good thing is before their eyes in the present, their hearts are full of regrets over what they used to have. If the millennium were opening, they would cry in the recollection of an old-fashioned Thanksgiving day or a Fourth of July. Praising God for what we have is a great deal better business than mourning over what our fathers had. But not all the "old men" think so. They rather pride themselves on their weeping power.

The people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping people (v. 13). There is nothing which so deadens the sound of thanksgiving in the Christian church like the whining of the "old men" over the former days, which they unwisely say were better than these. These mourners are found in pulpit and pew, on the platform and in the editorial room; they include "many of the priests and Levities and heads of fathers' houses;" but neither their numbers nor their respectability justify their croaking. It is a duty of all who are grateful for the blessings of now, and for the promises of the future, to let their joy be known, to shout with a very great shout, and to be heard afar off, when they praise the Lord and give thanks unto his name; because the Lord is good, and his mercy endureth forever—it was not all expended on the last generation.—H. Clay Trumbull, in Sunday School Times.

NEW MATCH BOXES.

A Chicken's Leg and an Empty Egg Shell Combined as an Ornament.

The latest object which the decorative craze has attacked is the unassuming leg of a chicken, and a newly killed one at that. The first step in the transformation is to pull up the tendons in the chicken's leg, so making



THE CHICKEN LEG TRANSFORMED.

the claw almost flat. The tendons at the top of the leg with a piece of fine wire and then twist the wire in and out around them so that a sort of a cup shape is formed. Take an egg, prick a hole in it, and pour its contents out; then break off the top. Cover the chicken leg and claw with bronze and gild the egg. Fill this with matches, and there you have a match case that will rival all others in oddity of design and peculiar origin. If there is any trouble to make the match case stand up with proper dignity, the New York World says, this may be obviated by twisting fine wire in and out the toes of the claw until a round mat is formed. This should, of course, be gilded.

"GO ASK PAPA."

"Go ask papa," she softly said
When I implored that she should wed.
Ah! human tounge can never tell
How much I worshiped Isabel;—
On hope of her my soul had fed.

And tho' I'd hoped for "yes" instead
Her words did not inspire dread;
I did not know my funeral knell
Was "ask papa."

But when I found that he was dead
And learned the kind of life he led,
I knew she meant—alas too well!
What men would mean by "Go to h—ll"
When she had smiled and softly said
"Go ask papa."

—Harvard Lampoon.

Children That Take Cold.

Children who take cold easily should always be made to change their stockings on coming out of doors, and it is a capital plan to dip each foot in a basin of cold water, rubbing foot and ankle dry with a vigourous application of a rough towel. If a child has a tendency to throat trouble the whole body should be bathed every night and morning with salt and water (commence with lukewarm water and accustom him gradually to perfect cold water) and rubbed dry with towel. Immediately after brushing his teeth, he should always gargle his throat well with salt and water.

To Preserve

The richness, color, and beauty of the hair, the greatest care is necessary, much harm being done by the use of worthless dressings. To be sure of having a first-class article, ask your druggist or perfumer for Ayer's Hair Vigor. It is absolutely superior to any other preparation of the kind. It restores the original color and fullness to hair which has become thin, faded, or gray. It keeps the scalp cool, moist, and free from dandruff. It heals itching humors, prevents baldness, and imparts to

THE HAIR

a silken texture and lasting fragrance. No toilet can be considered complete without this most popular and elegant of all hair-dressings.

"My hair began turning gray and falling out when I was about 25 years of age. I have lately been using Ayer's Hair Vigor, and it is causing a new growth of hair of the natural color."—R. J. Lowry, Jones Prairie, Texas.

"Over a year ago I had a severe fever, and when I recovered, my hair began to fall out, and what little remained turned gray. I tried various remedies, but without success, till at last I began to

USE

Ayer's Hair Vigor, and now my hair is growing rapidly and is restored to its original color."—Mrs. Annie Collins, Dighton, Mass.

"I have used Ayer's Hair Vigor for nearly five years, and my hair is moist, glossy, and in an excellent state of preservation. I am forty years old, and have ridden the plains for twenty-five years."—Wm. Henry Ott, *alias* "Mustang Bill," Newcastle, Wyo.

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TO A BABY.

Blown from some heavenly mansion's window-shelf
Where it was playing with its harp and crown,
There came of late—it couldn't help itself—
There came a little angel tumbling down.
Then you may guess, there was a great commotion
The anxious seraphs o'er the whole earth flew.
They searched and searched in vain; but I've a notion
From certain signs I note that it was you.
I half suspect your smiling and your winking;
Perhaps you never slept or ate before;
Though singing hymns was very fine, I'm thinking,
You like your present situation more.
Yes, here you are, and should you change your mind,
Remember this: You've left your wings behind.

—Browning, King & Co.'s Monthly.

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CIRCULATION LAST WEEK, 109,000.

JANUARY EXPIRATIONS.

We had intended to withdraw our per of "Nasby in Exile" and the two Columbus pictures with the Weekly Blade, at the end of December; but the demand for both premiums is now double what it was two months ago. Hence, we have decided to order the FOURTH edition of 5,000 copies of "Nasby in Exile," for the use of our subscribers in January.

Therefore, for the month of January, we will give the Weekly Blade one year and mail, postpaid, a copy of "Nasby in Exile," for ONE DOLLAR.

Or, we will, for one dollar, send the Weekly Blade one year and BOTH the "Columbus" pictures, which have been fully described in The Blade.

These two pictures are: "The Landing of Columbus," and "Columbus at the Court of Spain," size of each 17x24, beautifully colored in exact counterpart of the original paintings.

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"NASBY IN EXILE."

To give room for our Encyclopedia announcement, we omit the advertisement of "Nasby in Exile" from the fifth page this week. The offer continues, however, and it is easy for readers to refer to back numbers of The Blade for particulars.

THE POPULAR VOTE.

We are using every effort to get the OFFICIAL figures of the vote of each state. Just as soon as we get them from all the 44 states, we will be able to award our premiums, but of course can not before. Have patience, friends; we are as anxious to get the award made as you can possibly be.

TRE FRENCH CRISIS.

The Panama canal scandal in France has resulted in complications which threaten the existence of the republic. The old monarchical factions find now their opportunity, and are pushing schemes to again uprear the throne of the Bourbons. Bonapartism is too weak to cut any particular figure in the turmoil, though its few adherents are, of course, active. The weakness of character displayed at this crisis by the President, M. Carnot, is without doubt an element of great danger. Instead of sitting in his residence, trembling with fear over the possible outcome, he should rise to the occasion and demand that the members of the Chamber of Deputies should stop their partisan strife and personal quarrels, and unite to maintain, with firm hands, the supremacy of the republic. The point will soon be reached, if something is not done, when legislative and executive control will be lost, and the republic sink in chaos. Then another revolution and—who knows what?

Cook county, Illinois, has 232 building and loan associations, with assets amounting to $35,338,000. Many other towns and counties can make as good showing as Chicago and Cook county. The calamity shrieker's howl that "the poor are growing poorer," does not apply to those who are in these associations.

With silver produced at a cost of from 27 to 45 cents an ounce, the actual silver in a standard dollar is worth from 21 to 35 cents. The free coinage men thus want Congress to issue an edict that henceforth 21 to 35 cents shall pass as 100 cents. That is about the size of the situation.

Father McGlynn has been restored to his full priestly functions by Mgr. Satolli, the Papal ablegate. That gentleman appears to be exercising the authority of "an American Pope," much as he objects to the title.

Jerry Simpson has gone home to fight for the Senatorship. He will find that somebody has already secured a life Lease of the job.

It looks as though the pope has knocked the props from under the ultramontanes of the Roman church in this country.

If Hill and Cleveland wish to get together, why not try a French duel. It's the safest way.

If the United States is going to build revenue cutters, Toledo is a good place to construct them.

The French Republic will ride the storm in safety.

DRINKING IN CITIES.

The cities of the country are the fortresses of the saloon power. It is difficult for those whose lives are spent in the country, or in the small towns and villages, to realize the tremendous volume of the liquor traffic in our great cities. Lack of knowledge concerning the drinking habits of the great masses of foreign-born residents in cities, the extent to which drinking is practiced in their families, men, women and children all sharing in it, and their ideas on the subject of restrictive legislation, is the great reason why the advocates of temperance in rural localities underrate the difficulties of the execution of prohibitory legislation. The cases are widely different, of the village or district in which they live, and of a great city. In the former it is comparatively easy to execute the law. The majority of the people, including the best citizens, are united in opposition to the traffic, and the enforcement of the law is therefore easy. But in our great cities the majority is overwhelming the other way, and a prohibitory law would be an absolute dead letter. It could not be enforced by any means short of a military dictatorship.

Take Chicago, for instance. the World's Fair city. There are at the present time a few over 7,000 saloons within its limits. They number 1,000 more than they did one year ago. This increase is largely due to the enormous influx of foreigners. At least 50,000 immigrants have located in that city since the year 1888. With a population of 1,099,850, there is now one saloon to about every 157 inhabitants—men, women and children! The 7,000 liquor licenses issued by the city of Chicago yield a revenue of $3,500,000 per year.

Now New York city has a population of 1,710,715, and according to the latest figures at hand—about two months old—there are 7,734 drinking-places. For the last municipal year, the amount collected for licenses was $1,503,330. The number of drinking-places in New York has diminished since 1886. During that year there were 8,016, thus showing a decrease at present of 282. This is not because of any noticeable improvement in the matter of drinking, but because the board of Excise commissioners has limited the number of licenses issued.

While Chicago has many more saloons than New York in proportion to the population, it is doubtful whether she has as much drunkenness as the latter city. The amount of drinking in a city is not in a direct ratio to the number of its saloons. Intemperance is not checked by decreasing the number of saloons. As Excise Commissioner Andrews, of New York, bluntly states it, "a man who wants to get drunk can do it just as easily if liquor is sold at one place on a block as where it is sold at ten." The remedy must be radical. A mere reduction of the number of saloons will do no good. The only thing that will prove effective in this line is the absolute suppression of every saloon or drinking place of whatever nature.

This brings us back to the point stated above—in cities like Chicago and New York, in the present state of public opinion, a prohibitory law could not be enforced by any means short of a military dictatorship. No legal method known to a free government can be successful so long as public opinion, by so great a majority, favors the traffic. If the enforcement of the law were left to officials elected for the purpose, the men elected would be those who would wink at evasions of the law. If violators were brought to trial, juries would not convict. Grand juries would not indict, if selling liquor were made an indictable offense. The method must be radically different. It must educate these people up to the point that they will themselves see the wisdom of crushing out the liquor traffic. The education of the masses must be the first step in any permanently successful effort to

Pulverize the Rum Power.

UNCLE SAM AWAKE.

Had the story of the Canadian cruisers been sent out of New York rather than from Toledo, there would probably not have been the least question in the United States concerning it, as that city is generally recognized as the news center of the United States. But it may be remarked that the matter was one which, while vitally important to all the lake cities, is of small importance to New York city. That Canada would deny it was expected. She is not going to admit that three vessels have been built and fitted out, in the guise of "revenue cutters," which are really small, swift war vessels, with ram bows and torpedo tubes, and as heavy armament as they can carry, of the latest patterns, and most formidable in execution. The United States government has been on the alert, however, and kept itself fully informed of the progress of events. Hence the bill now before the House, for the construction of "revenue cutters" on the Canadian plan, but exceeding them somewhat in size, in speed, and in armament.

Over ten millions of gold have gone abroad since the middle of November, and the Treasury holdings of free gold are getting low. But until last week there was no serious fear here that the gold movement would have so important an effect on the money and stock markets. The high rates for money, however, will check gold exports and draw money to New York. The mandatory purchase clause of the silver act of 1890 is the cause of Europe's distrust, and the latter can be wholly dissipated only by the repeal of that clause.

The second railway in the Holy Land was begun. It is to run from Haifa, on the coast of the Mediterranean near Mount Carmel, over the plain of Esdraelon, crossing the Jordan below the Lake of Tiberias, and thence to Damascus. It will eventually be connected with the line already in opperation from Joppa to Jerusalem by a road down the Jordan valley. The day will soon come when it will be as easy to visit the historic spots of that sacred land as it is to visit any country in Europe.

Eleven years ago, Indiana passed a law making women eligible to any office under the general or special school laws of that state. Up to date, not a woman has been elected nor appointed to a school office, and such a position has never been sought by a woman. Why the Hoosier women do not assert their "rights" is a problem which strong-minded females will find some difficulty in solving.

The federal plan has worked well in Cleveland under the administration of city affairs now drawing to a close. That city has been so well managed that it now has balances in every city fund, and $1,250,000 in the city treasury. There has been a 20 per cent reduction in water rents and the same in the price of gas. Here is an object lesson for Toledo.

WHAT THEY THINK OF THE ENCYCLOPEDIA.

In the ordinary course of business a newspaper receives many letters from its subscribers and others, and many containing inquiries, requests, congratulations and other evidences of an interest in their paper. Of late this correspondence has been largely added to by the receipt of many strong letters extolling the merits of the Revised Encyclopedia Britannica which our readers have been so fortunate to obtain at the very low figure and reasonable terms which we offer. These letters come from every state in the Union and all tell one tale, that of pleasure at receiving this grand work which they could not well afford to be without, even at a higher price. Elsewhere we print a few of these letters received. Our files contain scores of others. This offer is to continue for a limited period only and you should avail yourself of it now if you have not already done so.

This work is the Revised Encyclopedia Britannica, complete in twenty octavo volumes of over 7,000 pages; 14,000 columns and 8,000,000 words, printed on a fine quality of paper, from new type, and is strongly bound in heavy manilla paper covers, which with proper care will last a life time.

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OUR NEW PREMIUMS.

Read our new premium offer on the 5th page of this issue—a beautiful oak table, with the Weekly Blade one year, for only $2! This table is an ornament to any home—is substantial and useful as well. This offer is in line with our promise to supply to Blade subscribers articles of utility at a nominal price. It is a good thing to be a subscriber to this paper! This table retails in any furniture store for from $2 to $2.50. We have bought 1,000 of them for cash, and the Weekly Blade's readers will get them at exactly what they cost us. Send your orders promptly, for they will not last long!

PUSHING THE REFORM.

Representative Andrew, of Massachusetts, a Democrat, but a friend of civil service reform, has introduced in the House of Representatives a joint resolution which will create disgust among that vast class of Democrats who are hoping for office as the result of the November election. It requests the President to frame rules as soon as practicable requiring that all appointments as heads of divisions in the various departments at Washington shall be made by the promotion of men now employed in said divisions; and that the rules be extended to custom-houses having twenty-five or more employes and to letter-carriers at all free-delivery offices.

Mr. Andrew, in discussing the matter, says he can see no reason why President Harrison shall not be sustained in doing this by all who believe in civil service reform; that it would be doing a just and proper thing, carrying out a reform to which not only Mr. Harrison, but Mr. Cleveland, are both pledged; that no matter if Mr. Harrison's term does end on March 4 next, he is President up to that time, and it is his duty to do all he can to carry out this or any other reform to which he is pledged.

President Harrison has had in contemplation for some time the advisability of extending the provisions of the civil service law to a large class of department clerks in Washington who are as yet outside its protection. Since the election he has hesitated to do so, lest the charge should be made that he is trying to keep in place men whom Cleveland might prefer to replace with Democrats. He has, however, come to the conclusion that he will carry out his original plan. It is said that he has, through friends, taken occasion to ascertain Cleveland's views on the subject, and finding that the latter approved it, now will not hesitate to do what is clearly his right, and which he also regards as his duty.

Mr. Cleveland could hardly object to this course, for he himself, in the last year of his term, extended the civil service rules very considerably—which action he justified by saying that his term did not expire until March 4, and there was no reason why he should not do a thing right in itself during the last few months of his administration as well as in the first. And he is said to regard Mr. Harrison's action as relieving him of a great deal of unwelcome responsibility in the earlier months of his new term. Verily, the lines of the spoilsmen have not fallen in pleasant places just now.

Senator John Sherman comes out plainly in favor of repealing the silver-purchase clause of the act of 1890, and says: "The fact is that silver is going the way of the other metals, probably such as nickel, and copper, and iron. The methods now used to cheapen the production of silver diminish its value as a standard of coin, such as it held when it represented a large percentage of labor. I think we will not be able to sustain ourselves against the financial attitude of the commercial world, which is inclining toward the gold standard more rather than less. Europe is too closely connected with us to allow us to be above her opinion."

In order to overcome the recent decision of Judge Gresham, declaring unconstitutional that part of the Interstate commerce law which gives the commission authority to compel witnesses to answer questions, Mr. Wise, of Virginia, chairman of the committee on Interstate and Foreign commerce, has introduced in the House a bill defining the authority of the commission in the matter. It is difficult to see, however, how Congress can give authority which the court has denied as being constitutional.

The Persian mission pays $12,000 a year, and it is said there are no applicants. The reason is that upon his arrival the minister is presented by the ruler with four elephants. This is bad enough, but the worst is that in return the minister is expected to give the ruler eight elephants. The result is the place is not wanted. Max Eppstein is the man for this place. He would return the four elephants he would receive, and for the other four he could present the Shah with his Toledo Tammany organization.

Now that Dana, of the Sun, declines to be the New York Herald's candidate for the Senate, the latter paper is booming him for the English mission. It really begins to look as though the Herald don't care so much where Mr. Dana goes as that he shall be kept out of New York city. His presence there probably makes the Sun too formidable a competitor to suit the Herald.

STEALING THE SENATE.

Not content with the result of the November election, the Democrats, in their greed for full and complete control, are about to steal, if possible, the Senate of the United States. There is no other word but "steal" which would cover the action, for it is to be done in stealth and not by honest methods. It is an impossibility for the Democrats to obtain a majority of the Senators. The Democrats have but 42 now, counting the successors to Hiscock in New York, and Sawyer in Wisconsin. They must have two more men to make the tie, which, by Stevenson's vote would give the majority to the Democracy. Either Populists or Republicans will be elected in each of the states of California, Montana, Kansas, Wyoming, Nebraska and Nevada.

Or to more fully state the facts. The Senate is composed of eighty-eight members, and so far the electors have decided that there will be thirty-nine Republicans, forty-one Democrats and two Populists, leaving six more to be elected in California, Montana, Kansas, Wyoming, Nebraska and Nevada.

The only one certain in this last group is Senator Stewart, of Nevada, and he will remain in with the Republicans in organization, and so will Peffer, of Kansas, and this leaves the Senate forty-one voting on the Republican side and forty-one voting on the Democratic, with Kyle holding off. But most likely Kyle will vote with the Democrats and thus give them forty-two, to forty-one Republicans, with five Senators yet to be elected. It is thought certain that before the Senate is called in extra session on March 4 Wyoming will elect a Senator and a Republican at that. This will make the Senate a tie, giving Kyle to the Democrats, and it is most likely that Kansas will have its new Senator there, and as there are only five Democrats in the legislature, although the Populists and Mrs. Lease seem to have the call at present, it is safe to say that the new Senator will vote with the Republicans, and this will give the latter a majority of 43 to 44. Montana also has every indication of Republican success, and California and Nebraska certainly will not elect Democrats, although perhaps Populists may be returned.

It is thought, however, that the contests in several of these states will be long and will not be ended before March 4, and if this is so the Senate, when Cleveland is inaugurated, will most likely be forty Republicans, forty-one Democrats and two Populists.

But here is where the sly work of those eminent political managers, Brice and Gorman, aided by Grover Cleveland, comes in. Let it be understood that the Senate organization goes on forever unless a full party majority overthrows it. Unlike the House of Representatives, its organization is continuous. In order to overthrow this organization now in the hands of the Republicans a clear party majority must be found. Should the Populists vote with the Democrats the majority would be found and the Republican organization would be overthrown. Patronage and power is a great lever. To give the Populists the dictation of appointments, and to trade to them certain offices, for their senatorial votes, is the plan of the Democrats. It depends upon the Populists and their honesty of purpose whether or not the Brice-Gorman gang of political tricksters are allowed to dictate the organization of the Senate and defeat the will of the people of various states.

The McGarrahan bill, which has been the subject of a three-days' speech by Mr. Hunton, in the United States Senate, is a final attempt to confirm McGarrahan's title to the lands for which he has been contending for many years. The bill passed both houses of Congress at the last session, but was vetoed by President Harrison. The present is an attempt to pass it over the veto. If successful, it will be the first case of the kind in Mr. Harrison's incumbency.

The Democrats in the United States Senate have held a caucus, "to consider what shall be done in regard to the prospective Senatorial contests in Western states." We rise to ask what concern these contests are of the United States Senate at present? It can not, under the constitution, take any action whatever until some one appears to take his seat as Senator, against whose title there is a contest. These Democratic politicians are getting super-serviceable.

St. Louis has made an official test of street railway mail service, and the results are satisfactory. The collection and delivery of mail has been expedited without any increase in the postal force. A regularly filled mail car is now run over the suburban lines, and the mail picked up and distributed. Slow-going St. Louis is abreast of the times in this particular.

There were many protectionist Democrats who voted for Cleveland because they deemed the free trade plank in the Chicago platform to be a swindle, and that nothing will be done in the way of tariff tinkering to injure business. Perhaps they will see their error in a year or so.

It is now announced that apostles of Mohammedanism are coming to this country to do active missionary work in behalf of the creed of Islam. There is a seductive side to this belief which might become popular, as it allows a man to take as many wives as he can support.

The Chicago Post flippantly remarks that "Ohio has a candidate for secretary of War—also one for every office in the gift of the incoming administration, as usual." Cert'ny; what do you suppose a man is born in Ohio for, anyway?

"A well-known Democrat" is quoted in Washington specials as saying that he "will filibuster until he drops" against the Nicaragua canal bill in the House. If he attempts it he should be dropped early and effectually.

The net export of gold from the United States for the last eleven months was $47,741,921. Of course our mines produced more than that, so that we really have more gold than we had a year ago.

Silver is still declining. On Wednesday last, silver certificates in New York reached the lowest point ever reported—82 1-2 cents per ounce. The lowest previous rate was 83 cents, recorded last August.

Unless France gets rid of the Bonapartist and Bourbon pretenders to the throne, with which that unhappy country is cursed, the republic will sooner or later be overthrown.

An Iowa man wants to have a new flag for this country with a pansy as a center and star ground work. He evidently has an interest in the song "Only a Pansy Blossom."

Von Caprivi will amend his army bill. If we could only amend the army worm.

OUR JAPAN LETTERS.

Mr. Locke Diligently Getting His Material Ready—Features Never Before Given in Any American Newspaper.

A brief letter from Mr. Robinson Locke, who, with a family party, is now making a tour of Japan, with the purpose of writing a series of letters in The Blade, which will be one of the several special features for the new year, has just been received. It was written at Kyoto, the capital of the empire. He is rapidly accumulating his material, and writes:

"The best wood engraver in Japan is making some cuts for The Blade, and the finest artist in the empire is making dozens of India ink drawings for the same purpose. They are extremely fine in execution. Whatever the letters may lack in literary merit they will make up in pictorial excellence. Nothing of the kind has ever been done before. The engravings will show—accurately and spiritedly—characteristic sketches of town and country life, types of men and women, street scenes, temples (and they are magnificent in their Oriental splendor), Japanese homes, farm life, their industries—in short. I am sparing neither time, pains nor money to get the finest lot of illustrations ever taken out of Japan. We are having all sorts of queer and interesting experiences, all of which I set down, for I know they will please The Blade's readers. I am trying to tell the things which they most want to know, and to avoid guide-book methods entirely."

Mr. Locke speaks with too great modesty of his literary ability. He possesses to a rare degree the faculty of telling in vivid word-pictures, which convey a perfect understanding of the subject to his readers. We can safely promise that his series of letters will be one of the literary events of the coming year, and that the readers of The Blade (in which these letters will appear exclusively) will be pleased, interested and instructed by their perusal.

MEXICAN PENSIONS INCREASE.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill increasing the pensions of survivors of the Mexican war from $8 to $12 a month. It went through without a dissenting vote. The Democrats voted for it, as they voted for the original bill, because over two-thirds of the beneficiaries of it are Southern Democrats, most of whom were in the Confederate army; the Republicans voted for it because they believe that men who did their duty to their country on the field of battle deserve such recognition.

But is it not rather inconsistent for the representatives of a party which is howling about the "pension burden," to deliberately vote to increase the pensions of a select class of 50 per cent? There was no pretense that the Mexican war pensioners are in any greater need than are tens of thousands of the broken-down survivors of the late war. There was no reason given for this sudden outbreak of generosity to this particular class of veterans. Suppose that some one had introduced a bill to increase the pension of every $8 per month veteran to $12 per month, what an outburst of Democratic eloquence there would have been against "adding unnecessarily to the burdens of the people!" Yet the principle involved would be exactly the same as that of the present bill.

CLEVELAND'S ALLEGED PLAN.

The report goes that Mr. Cleveland has intimated that he would be glad to call an extra session of Congress soon after his inauguration, if he could be assured the House would do nothing but organize, elect a Speaker, and appoint the various standing committees. His idea would be to have the committee on Ways and Means be given power to sit during the time up to the regular day of the meeting of Congress, on the first Monday in December, and that it should prepare a tariff bill for immediate introduction and action.

He seems to have a profound distrust of the unruly crowd of Democrats in the House of Representatives, and to fear that if called in extra session they would insist upon beginning a season of interminable talk which none knows so well as he would result in wrangling and the discrediting of Democracy before the people. If there is any statesmanship in the Democratic ranks, now is the time to show it. Cleveland's task of curbing his party and making it walk on the lines he himself has laid down, is a gigantic one, and he may well be distrustful of his ability to accomplish it.

An ordinance has been introduced into the city council of Chicago providing that all railroads having terminals in that city shall elevate their tracks sixteen feet above the level of the streets within five years. It is to be hoped that this effort to abolish grade crossings will be effective, though there is no doubt the railways will unite to fight an ordinance whose execution would entail so heavy an expense upon them.

Although the winter has been one of average cold throughout Europe so far the cholera persists at Hamburg, and the gravest appehensions are felt that the return of spring will be followed by a severe epidemic. This view of the case has led to renewed discussion at Washington of the advisability of suspending all immigration for a year, at least.

Ohio has another Democrat who wants to be honored with a Cabinet position. This aspirant is Gen. A. S. Piatt, brother of the late Donn Piatt. He would like to be secretary of Agriculture, and his qualifications for the place are that he is a Democrat and owns a thousand acres of land on the historic Macochee, in Logan county.

The grand jury at Martinsville, Indiana, has completed its investigation of the desecration of soldiers' graves, and has found no indictments. If the officers of the law will not hunt down and punish such despicable wretches, comrades of the soldiers whose graves were violated should see that the miscreants are caught.

The New York World gives the result of the Wyoming election as follows: "The official vote in Wyoming is: Harrison, 8,376; Weaver, 7,548." The Democracy is national, as claimed by the World, Where is that party in Wyoming?

The New York Recorder well says that it "will be no use to close New York and other ports against immigration and allow undesirable persons to be smuggled in by way of Canada. That sort of business must be stopped."

The million and a half of dollars which Phil Armour gave for a maual training school will get the Chicago butcher better press notices than Jay Gould got when he died.

Where is Capt. Kolb, of Alabama, at? He has not been heard from for some time.

Cleveland is the Santa Claus of the Democratic office-seeker.

JAPAAN'S CURRENCY.

The history of Japanese currency for the past quarter of a century is instructive, and should afford an object lesson to some of the American people who cling to very plausible but extremely unsound financial ideas. In 1868, Japan, then beginning the remarkable movement to introduce Western commercial methods, reformed her coins, and made the unit the silver yen, of the same weight and fineness as the Mexican silver dollar. In 1871 the currency of the country was put upon a gold basis, the coin being the 20-yen piece, though the minting of the silver yen was continued.

But the Japanese government needed far more money than its revenue afforded. The unwise step was taken of following the course this country was compelled to inaugurate during the war, and there were large issues of treasury notes, practically the same in nature as our greenbacks. A banking system similar to those of Western nations was also established. As is always the case when a nation plunges into debt through the issue of government paper, the issue of treasury notes was greatly extended; the banks also flooded the country with their notes.

The inevitable result followed, of course. Gresham's law of currency began to operate; the less valuable currency drove out the more valuable. Gold and silver disappeared from circulation, and a period of inflation set in. For years Japan suffered all the evils of a depreciated paper currency, with consequent loss to the people and disorganization of her finances. Meanwhile, the great fall of silver had set in, and in 1885 there was a resumption of specie payments, but in the the silver yen, which, while of the same weight and fineness as before, yet had much less purchasing power. This is the danger that is ahead in our own finances—the danger of going to the silver standard, and reducing the actual purchasing power of the dollar about 35 per cent.

CLUB RATES FOR THE BLADE.

Our agents' terms are now ready for this year, and we have made them exceedingly low. We want not only every one who usually acts as agent for newspapers to send to us for those terms, but we desire that any of our subscribers who will be interested to know how they can get a copy of the Weekly Blade free, to write for our agents' terms. We have made the price for small clubs lower than ever before offered by any dollar weekly newspaper. Write for confidential terms to agents. Address "The Blade, Toledo, Ohio."

THE AMERICA'S CUP.

The season of 1893 will be made memorable by an effort on the part of English yachtsmen to capture the America's cup. Lord Dunraven has challenged American yachtsmen to race for the cup, and the designer is at work on the plans for his yacht, the Valkyrie, which will attempt to wrest the trophy from the United States. Several yachts will probably be built in this country, and the one to contest with the Valkyrie will be selected after a preliminary trial of speed early in the summer.

The cup came to this country as the result of the first international yacht race, held at Cowes, Isle of Wight, on Friday, August 22, 1851, during the annual regatta of the Royal Thames Yacht club. The race for the cup was open to all nations, and there were eighteen entries. The yacht America was entered by Commodore John F. Stevens. She started last, but won, coming to anchor twenty minutes before the next fastest yacht. The trophy thus won has always been known as "the America's cup." It was presented by Mr. Stevens to the New York Yacht club, as a challenge cup. The English yachtsmen have always desired to get it back, and have contested for it in 1869, 1871, 1876, 1885, 1886 and 1887. The contest next summer will be the greatest event in yachting circles since 1887, when the Volunteer beat the English yacht Thistle, thus retaining the cup on this side of the Atlantic.

It has been decided to invite Cleveland to make an address at the opening of the Columbian Exposition next May, and to touch the button that will set the machinery of the fair in motion. It is proper that he, as the Chief Executive of the nation at that time, should perform this duty, of course; but oh! what a ponderous mass of platitudinous polysyllabies that speech will be!

The Interstate Commerce commission, in its annual report, says that while much intended by the law has been accomplished, it is idle to attempt to prevent discriminations or to prosecute carriers under the existing construction of the law by the courts. This means that the law should be radically amended or else be entirely repealed.

The Michigan Senatorial contest is now fairly inaugurated, with Senator Stockbridge in the lead, ex-Governor Luce a close second, and Hon. James O'Donnell, Congressman Stephenson, Benton Hanchett and Gen. Gutcheon following. The contest is spirited, but it is honorable—which can not be said of every Senatorial campaign.

Cleveland has bought a span of chestnut horses to take the place of the famous seal-browns of his former term. The fact has set some hungry Democrats to growling that he ought to be thinking about parceling out the offices rather than preparing to waste his time in driving.

Eastern cities cannot forgive Chicago for taking the World's Fair away from New York. The Harrisburg Patriot gives the Windy City this rap: "Twelve murders were committed in Chicago last month, and everybody was robbed. Preparations for the fair are progressing rapidly."

The story of 100,000 Virginians going to Washington to see "the old man" inaugurated on March 4, sounds like a reminiscence of the 100,000 Kentuckians Henri Watterson was going to marshal down to the capital in 1877.

There will be no inauguration ball when Governor Llewelling, of Kansas, is inducted into office. He is a calamity howler, and on that occasion there will be nothing except a concerted whoop of despair.

The Sigma Chi fraternity had to initiate Grover Cleveland "on the instalment plan" the other night, according to the veracious Chicago Mail. He was to large to handle at one session.

Wade Hampton positively refuses to accept another office at the hands of South Carolina Democracy—which shows that Mr. Hampton is not as much of a Democrat as he used to be.

Two Delaware women have been arrested as witches. We are obliged to own that Delaware is in the Union.

THOSE SOUVENIR COINS.

The illustration is an exact representation of the new World's Fair souvenir half-dollar, which the Weekly Blade announces in another column as a premium. We have it mailed to you, postpaid and registered, with a copy of the Weekly Blade one year, for $2. We can not promise that the offer will stand longer than through the month of January. Order quickly, if you wish to secure one. They will increase in value as the years go by, and as an investment it is the most profitable that you can make.

It is a very handsome coin. The obverse shows the head of Columbus

taken from an authentic portrait, a strong and thoughtful face, with the words, "United States of America. Columbian Half Dollar." On the reverse side is a three masted caravel, the Santa Maria, flagship of the great navigator. Beneath it are two hemispheres with the date "1492," and around the edge the words, "World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1892."

The coin is of the same weight and size as the ordinary half dollar.

A MENACE, NOT WAR.

The statements made by The Blade in its issue of Saturday, December 17, are daily being verified. As the days go by, it becomes clearer to the minds of the government that the three "revenue cutters" are a menace to the nation, though no one believes that they mean a declaration of war on the part of Great Britain. It is Great Britain's policy to be always ready. She has been fortifying against the United States for years.

She has made the Bermudas almost invulnerable, and this group of islands not a thousand miles from New York could be of value as a military station only against the United States in case of war. Then Halifax has been made a military post fully as strong. Now Vancouver, the other terminus of the Canadian Pacific railroad, is being strongly fortified. This with the fact that these revenue cruisers are nearly completed, and the St. Lawrence is to be made a fourteen-foot channel to Lake Ontario, ought to be enough to show the greatest dullard that should there be trouble, England will have the great advantage of being prepared. It was to show this menace that The Blade first printed the story which the official reports have sustained.

There is no immediate danger of war or trouble. Should Canada determine to separate from Great Britain, she would find the "revenue cutters" turned against her, to hold her under the imperial government.

It is worthy of mention that since The Blade mentioned the fact, the press of the entire country has been stirred up over this British menace, and the need of a canal from New York to Buffalo is plainly seen, as is the demand for immediate action on the bills appropriating money for "revenue cutters" on the lakes under the American flag.

The party which complained of the tin plate duty as a tax on the "little dinner-kettle of the workingman," says the New York Tribune—which said little dinner-kettle, by the way, was never so cheap as it is at this moment—is now calculating to raise its principal revenue from the sugar that goes into the workingman's coffee-pot. Then the aforesaid workingman will find the difference between protection and tariff-for-revenue to be that the first is not a tax and the second is.

Some new plan must be evolved to educated the Indians. The government has provided schools and furnished experienced teachers, but the red man don't want to be educated, and plays hookey. Commissioner Morgan is of the opinion that if the schools are maintained the United States army will have to be mustered in as truant officers, as it is the only way to secure the attendance of the Indians.

The Ohio State Journal thinks it would aid things materially in our legislative bodies if gentlemen who rise to make speeches were compelled to stand on one leg while delivering them, and were not allowed to speak any longer than they can stand in that position. The proposition is novel, but perhaps worth considering.

Henry George has nearly completed another book. Those who want it need not subscribe, as Hon. Tom Johnson will no doubt have it printed in the Congressional Record as a Democratic document. Mr. George should get a special copyright on the book.

From the beginning of the present session of Congress, on December 5, up to last Saturday, the 17th, according to Amos Cummings, in the New York Sun, the House of Representatives sat just 26 hours. Queer are the ways of Democratic "reform."

The Populists of Kansas are said to be drilling with arms for the avowed purpose of protecting their "political rights." By "political rights" they seem to mean that nobody else has any right to office, whether elected or not.

The Atlanta Constitution says those Democrats who oppose an extra session of Congress are suspicious of their party, and afraid to trust it. If so, it shows them to be well acquainted with their party's record.

The husband of Mrs. Lease, of Kansas, runs a drug store at Wichita. He cannot give strict attention to business, as much of his time is taken up with housework and looking after the children.

St. George Mivart has stirred up the English literary world by his article on "Happiness in Hell," in the December number of the Nineteenth Century magazine. Mr. Mivart is evidently very much of an optimist.

The Hon. Mr. Tupper may have a hard time convincing the state department of the "revenue cutters'" innocence, even though he appears extremely plausible.

There are said to be 24,132 more federal office-holders now than when Cleveland retired from office. That many more places for hungry Democrats.

Vive la Republique! should be the French cry. The people should not give up the liberties which only came after a century of bloodshed.

PERSONAL POINTS.

The Princess of Wales wears gloves three feet long.

Young "Jim" Garfield has grown a beard, and is said to be a perfect image of his father.

Andrew G. Curtin and James A. Beaver are the only two living ex-governors of Pennsylvania.

The Indians of Australia eat millions of butterflies every year, yet no one has ever called them "fly."

Miss Breckinridge, daughter of Congressman Breckinridge, has been admitted to the bar, and is practicing law in Kentucky.

Only one man in two hundred is over six feet in height. This is exclusive of the rich but brainless men who look down upon their fellows.

If Mr. Cleveland should call Congress together in extra session, it would be the twelfth extra session since the foundation of the republic.

Among the debutantes in Washington this winter will be the daughters of Chief Justice Fuller, Justice Brewer, Senator Brice, and the Brazilian minister.

With the single exception of the Pennsylvania, the Boston and Main railroad system transports more passengers than any other system in the United States.

Miss Garrett, of Baltimore, is said to have more wealth at her command than Miss Helen Gould, and is therefore the richest unmarried woman in this country.

The customary Christmas recess of the high schools of St. Petersburg has been abandoned this winter. It was feared that students might bring cholera to the capital.

Thomas Lincoln, a cousin of the martyr President, is now more than 80 years old. He prizes an oil painting of the great President, painted by a Springfield artist in 1860.

Only three men who were members of the United States Senate in 1818 are now living—James W. Bradbury, of Maine; ex-Governor Felch, of Michigan, and Gen. George W. Jones, of Iowa.

The Kennebec Journal (Me.) is edited in Honolulu, by Mr. John L. Stevens, who is the United States Minister to the Hawaiian Islands. For long-distance editing this takes prize number one.

MEDICAL EVENTS OF THE CENTURY.

Chloroform discovered by Guthrie, of New York, 1831.

Pasteur's experiments in the line of germ culture, 1870-1890.

The first naval hospital founded on the ship Dreadnought, 1821.

The first grand international medical congress held at Paris, 1867.

Morphia discovered in opium by Serturner; claimed by others, 1803.

Dr. Richard Bright published his researches into disease of the kidneys, 1836.

Miss Garrett licensed in London to practice, the first female licensed doctor, 1865.

Hahnemann's "Organon of Medicine" published, the basis of homeopathy, 1810.

Vaccination made compulsory in England in 1853; in Ireland and Scotland in 1863.

The opthalmoscope invented by Helmholz. Revolution in treatment of eye disease, 1851.

The Bellevue hospital, New York, founded and opened, with 800 beds for patients, 1826.

Vaccination generally practiced all over Europe. Anti-vaccination societies begun, 1816.

The first orthopedic hospital opened in London for the treatment of malformations, 1848.

Faraday's discovery of inductive electricity opened a new era in the history of medical electricity, 1831.

Lectures on medical jurisprudence first delivered in America at Columbia college, by Dr. Stringham, 1894.

CONGRESS OF RELIGIONS.

The establishment of universalism as a religious denomination was the outcome of the theological agitation that stirred the old city of Gloucester, Mass., in its earlier days.

In connection with the Egyptian nations, [illegible], as well as some of the early christian fathers, speak of Christ as the scarabaeus and symbolize him as a man with a bee's head. The Egyptians always embalmed this sacred insect.

The hill near Jerusalem where the crucifixion of Jesus occurred is formed of limestone. The shores of the Dead Sea are lined with pumice stone, showered out of some volcano that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, and finally sunk beneath the waters of the Dead Sea.

Both the Kurds and the Cossacks believe that Ararat is guarded by an unearthly being and that no man can ascend the peak and live. They have a somewhat contrary opinion, however, as to what kind of spirits are on guard, the former claiming that the devil is guard supreme, the latter that angels are on watch.

According to a recent census, christianity is the third creed in India in point of numbers. Dr. George F. Pentecost, who has been engaged in missionary work in that country, gives a hopeful account of the steady growth of christianity in India. He reports a Brahmin as saying that christianity is not so much converting individual Hindoos, as christianizing Hindoism.

A CABINET OF RARITIES.

According to a calculation published in Justice, a London paper, the entire population of the world could stand on a field ten miles square.

When a child dies in Greenland the native parents bury a living dog with it, the dog to be used by the child as a guide to the other world.

The highest-priced piano in the United States belong to the Marquand family of New York city. It was designed and painted by Alma Tadema and cost H. G. Marquand $46,000.

Astronomers tell us that if the sun were a hollow globe, with our little

Publishers' Desk.

GOOD WATCHES.

It is the constant aim of The Blade to serve its subscribers at all times in such a manner that each may be benefited many times the cost of his subscription. In fact, we believe that very many thousands of The Blade's subscribers are far richer to-day by reason of being subscribers to it. At all times we offer articles of utility at less than value, and we are constantly reaching out for something new, carefully avoiding trashy and useless articles. We have been importuned by our subscribers to supply GOOD watches. After careful consideration, we have made large purchases, for cash, at such low prices that we are able to offer our subscribers the best make of American movements, in the finest gold, goldfilled, or silver cases, at much less than the regular prices.

No one but subscribers can take advantage of these extraordinary offers. By this arrangement you are enabled to purchase a watch on such terms as would be given if several thousand persons should put their money together and buy watches at the very lowest jobbers' prices, saving the profits between the manufacturers and themselves, and getting the benefits of all possible discounts by reason of the magnitude of the purchases. Every subscriber needing a watch should embrace this opportunity; and every person in such need, and not a subscriber, should put himself in a position to secure this great advantage by subscribing for the Weekly Blade at once.

We give three days' trial free. When a purchaser receives a watch, he should submit it to any expert he may select, and if at the end of three days he is not satisfied that the watch is up to the guarantee, he should at once return it to this office, when his money will be refunded in full. No watches will be sent C. O. D., and no samples will be sent. Every watch is guaranteed to be the latest product of the Waltham or Elgin factories, whichever the purchaser may select.

These offers may not continue long, and on this account subscribers should order promptly. Every person receiving a sample copy of this paper should subscribe at once, so as to be able to purchase these goods to such advantage. Below will be found descriptions and prices of a few Waltham and Elgin watches, from the many styles made of those factories, which represent the greatest value for the money. No Swiss or other cheap watches are in our lists. Do not try to order anything through the Weekly Blade except the celebrated Waltham and Elgin watches—the best ever made.

Offer No. 1—The Toledo Blade Special.

GOLD WATCH, MEN'S SIZE, $16.75.

The watch and case-makers of the United States have for many years been trying to produce a watch that would be exactly like a $100 solid gold watch in everything except the expense. At last this has been accomplished. The Waltham Watch company has produced the most beautiful watch ever made. This watch is made for people who wish to carry a "thin model" watch. We mean that this watch does not take up much room in the pocket, the case being of the regular strength and thickness. The case is made of two plates of solid gold, 14 kt. fine, so thick that they will last twenty years. Between these plates is a thin sheet of stiff composition metal, the purpose of which is to protect the works from damage when the watch is pressed or struck. This feature saves many a bill for repairs—a great point for people at a distance from reliable watch-makers. The ring, joints, thumb-piece, and all parts subjected to constant wear, are solid gold, which, of course, will wear for generations. The works contain Logan's celebrated Breguet hair spring, a regulator so plain that a child can work it, seven valuable jewels, compensating expansion balance, safety pinion, stem-winding and pendant-setting apparatus, and many other improvements, the enumeration of which would be superfluous. The works much resemble the celebrated Waltham "Riverside," a movement known the world over. This watch is offered to Blade subscribers only, but any subscriber may buy all he wishes for his friends. Price of either Open Face or Hunting Case, delivered, $16.75.

Offer No. 2—Men's Size.

GOLD WATCH, $14.35.

No. 2 is a men's size Waltham or Elgin gold-filled hunting-case watch, stem wind and set; the works contain seven jewels, compensation balance, safety pinion, and all improvements. It is an accurate timepiece, which looks just like a $100 solid gold watch. The case is guaranteed to wear 15 years. Watch clubs and installment men have been selling this watch for $38. Our price by registered mail, delivery prepaid and guaranteed, is only $14.35.

Offer No. 3—Men's Size.

GOLD WATCH—$12.

No. 3 is a magnificent gold-filled watch, with Waltham or Elgin works. In the works are seven jewels and all improvements, including expansion balance, plain regulator, etc. Purchasers can easily get $35 for this watch in cash or exchange. The manufacturers guarantee the case to wear 15 years just like solid gold. Price, by registered mail, $12.

All watches offered are stem-winders and setters.

Offer No. 4—Men's Size.

WALTHAM OR ELGIN—$5.50.

No. 4 is a men's size Waltham or Elgin watch, containing seven jewels, compensation balance and safety pinion, stem winding and setting apparatus, and all the latest improvements. The case is solid nickel silver, open face, and the crystal is made of plate glass, so heavy as to withstand any strain. The usual price of this watch is $8.50 to $12.50. We send it to subscribers by registered mail for $5.50.

Offer No. 5—Lady's Size.

SOLID GOLD WATCH—$22.50.

No. 5 is a genuine Waltham or Elgin watch, in a handsomely engraved solid gold case, warranted to be 14 k. gold. U. S. assay. The works are jeweled according to the latest principles, by which the best results are achieved. This watch represents the triumph of modern expert workmanship. Each watch is a stem-winder and setter, and contains compensation balance, patent safety pinion and tempered hair spring. We will send this elegant time-piece to any subscriber, delivery guaranteed and prepaid, for $22.50.

Offer No. 6—Lady's Size.

GOLD WATCH—$13.25.

No. 6 is a seven-jeweled lady's watch, in an engraved hunting case, the gold on which is guaranteed by the manufacturers to be standard, and good for at least 15 years' wear. Any lady in the land who is fortunate enough to get this watch will be proud to carry it. It is a magnificent timekeeper, and usually sells at from $18 to $25. Subscribers should sell it for $20. Sent by registered mail to any subscriber for only $13.25.

Offer No. 7—Lady's Size.

SOLID SILVER WATCH—$9.50.

No. 7 is a lady's size solid coin silver Waltham or Elgin watch. The works contain seven jewels, stem wind and set, and all improvements. This watch is just as good and handsome as a solid gold watch. Sold to subscribers only, delivered free, for only $9.50.

Offer No. 8.—Blade Special.

Open Face or Hunting Case, Waltham or Elgin works. Be sure to name your choice when you order. A $200 solid gold watch cannot be bought for $22, but the Weekly Blade offers a watch under the above number that has all the appearance and most of the good qualities of a $200 watch. You have probably never seen a watch like this, and must therefore depend upon us for the description of the latest, handsomest and best watch made by the great American Waltham and Elgin national factories. Time and money have been expended in bringing this particular watch to perfection. The movement (or works) contains 15 jewels, compensation balance, safety pinion, Breguet hair spring, patent regulator, and all improvements. The case is the thinnest filled watch case ever made. Remember, we mean that the watch when closed in the pocket is thin. The lids of the case are the usual thickness, and form a perfect protection for the movement. The case is made of a plate of fine composition metal, over which two heavy sheets of 14k. gold are drawn, making a case that is for all purposes as good as solid gold, and warranted for 20 years. A written guarantee accompanies each watch. Every part which is subjected to constant wear, such as the ring, thumb-piece, joint plugs, hinges, etc., is of solid gold. The works are especially recommended where the most accurate time is required. This is just the watch for doctors, lawyers, clergymen, county committemen, and all others who wish a really first-class article. As a present it cannot be excelled. It is so thin and convenient in form that it will even make a good and satisfactory ladies' watch, and it is equally recommended for school teachers and other professional women on account of its accuracy, which is equalled by no watch made especially for ladies.

After February 1 we are unable to say what the price will be, and we reserve the right to withdraw this offer at any time. We will send this watch, open face or hunting case, as desired, by registered mail to any of our subscribers for $22.00.

All men's size watches are equally suitable for boys' wear, and all lady's size watches for girls' wear. The great Waltham and Elgin watch companies make nothing but watches of high grade and full size.

In ordering BE SURE to state the number of the offer, say whether you want Elgin or Waltham, and give the price, that we may understand clearly what you want.

If you are not a subscriber to The Blade, add one dollar to prices above stated when you order, and we will enter you on our subscription list for one year. Address "THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio."

BEAUTIFUL PICTURES.

There is nothing which so adds to a home as nice pictures upon its walls. The Blade has sold tens of thousands of pictures—copies of the most celebrated paintings in the world. Only one person can own the original, but everbody can have a good copy at a very low price. Most of these pictures are done in high colors, in close imitation of the original painting. One or two of them are photographic etchings, and very artistic. Sizes of these pictures either 17x24 or 21x28. We now offer the following:

1. The Roman Chariot Race.
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4. Napoleon at Friedland.
5. Christ Before Pilate.
6. The Grand Canal of Venice.
7. The Horse Fair.
8. Columbus at the Court of Spain.
9. The Landing of Columbus.

Any one of the above pictures will be sent by mail, postpaid, inclosed in a stout pasteboard tube, for 25 CENTS.

Or, we will send any five of them you may choose for ONE DOLLAR.

Address all orders: THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

BLADE CHINA TEA SETS and BLADE WASHING MACHINES.

Our Blade tea sets and Blade washing machines were very popular premiums last year, and are often inquired for. The offers for both made last year hold good for this season also. Our old readers are familiar with the offers, or have copies of The Blade containing them. New ones who wish to know what the offers are will please drop us a postal card, and we will send a copy of both advertisements, exactly as they were published last year. Briefly they are as follows:

An 80-piece china tea set and the Weekly Blade one year for $7; or the tea set as a premium for every club of 11 subscribers, accompanied by $11.

The washing machine and the Weekly Blade one year for $5; or the washing machine as a premium for a club of 10 subscribers, accompanied by $10. Send for a copy of the offers.

SMALL GIRLS AND BOYS.

They Never Looked Better Than in the Quaint Costumes of To-day.

Small maidens never looked half as irresistible as in the dainty little empire gowns of the day. The small boy is equally radiant in gay-colored knickerbockers and real silver buckles on his slippers.

A coat worn by a little French girl this winter is of Russian blue velour made to hang in plaits from a round yoke of white Mandarin lamb. The coat is fastened by two silver hooks and-eyes embedded in scroll-like ornaments of white silk braid. With this coat is worn a hood of Russian blue cloth trimmed with loops of ribbon of

the same shade and finished with a strip of Mandarin lamb.

An odd little coat for a small boy is of plain scarlet cloth, bound with black braid. The coat is double-breasted, with three deep capes falling over the shoulders, and is ornamented with large smoked-pearl buttons. There are flaring military cuffs, with two big buttons upon them, and with the coat is worn a three-cornered black velvet hat.

WHAT IS WOMAN?

A Discussion of of An Unanswerable Conundrum.

What is the truth about woman, any way? Is she the gentle, tender, truthful, credulous creature we have so long been accustomed to believe her? Or is she really a confidence operator of unfathomable depth?

These are questions every man puts to himself fifty times a day, and we venture to say that no man ever found a final and satisfactory answer to them. The utmost he can do is weigh the evidence presented to him, and read the marking on the scale. This, of course, is vexing, for new evidence is constantly upsetting and shifting the balance, and no decision can ever be reached.

Many men, for example, will be greatly disturbed to learn that one of the sex, at a recent meeting of Sorosis, stated the fact to be that "woman is wofully easy to be imposed upon." But that is not the worst of it. Just as you have succeeded, after infinite trouble, in forming a new set of opinions about the ministering angel, you are paralyzed by the suggestion, advanced by a man down in Texas, that "sometimes the modest maiden's downcast eyes are covering the expansive feet of her eloquent suitor."

Think of it! Romeo is pleading humbly and earnestly, his heart in his mouth and his brimming eyes fixed upon her sweet young face. With all the ardent fire of his strong nature he tells her that he loves her. She is everything to him. She is his idol and he will worship her perpetually. Will she be his queen? He sees a faint momentary flush upon her damask cheek. She loves! No. It is indigestion. Her bosom heaves with modest agitation! No, with weariness. Her downcast eyes are proof she loves; but fears to own it! No, she is wondering whether he wears No. 8 or No. 9 A. But she says "yes," and throws herself rapturously into the haven afforded by his strong arms! True, she does; but she is thinking about what bridesmaids she will have, and the pressure of the cheek upon his shoulder is for the purpose of securing a blush by friction with the woolen cloth.

And then, in a few short months, he fastens his suspenders with a hairpin instead of a nail, and tries to make himself believe he is happy.

Well, let's try to look on the bright side of things. If there were any live ducks in Chicago, and a man had time to hunt, this would be good weather for duck hunting.—Chicago Post.

LITTLE WILLIE'S CHRISTMAS SKATES.

WILLIE WILL SKATE.

WILLIE SKATES.

WILLIE HAS SKATED.

THE AMERICA'S CUP

Comes First of All—The Cape May and Pieces.

With a new challenge for the America's cup the interest in international yachting regains life all over the world. It is to international yachting that yachting in its higher forms must look for the perpetuation of a healthy and vigorous life always. There are several trophies now offered for competition by yachting lovers of different nations. First and foremost of these is always and ever the America's cup, the "blue ribbon of the seas." This is

THE AMERICA'S CUP.

an ugly piece of silverware offered by the Royal Yacht Squadron in August, 1851, in order to make a race for the American schooner-yacht America, which was destined from sailing for the Queen's cup by the rules of the club. It was won by the America and offered as a perpetual challenge cup for friendly competition by the yachts of the world. No nations except England and Canada have challenged for it. England challenged in 1870, 1871, 1885, 1886 and 1887. Canada challenged in 1876 and 1881.

The foreign yachts which have striven for the cup are Cambria, Livonia, Countess of Dufferin, Atalana, Genesta, Galatea and Thistle. The American yachts which have successfully defended the cup are the Magic, Columbia, Sappho, Madeline, Mischief, Puritan, Mayflower and Volunteer. The Columbia and Sappho both sailed against the Livonia.

The Cape May challenge cup was presented to the New York Yacht club in 1872 by James Gordon Bennett. Races for it are open to yachts for all nations. In 1872 the schooner Dreadnaught won it, sailing against the Palmer. The next year the schooner Enchantress took it away from the Dreadnaught. In 1877 the schooners Idler, Dreadnaught, Rambler and Vesta sailed for it and the Idler won. In 1885 the British cutter Genesta and the American schooner Dauntless raced for the cup, the Genesta winning. The cup then went to the other side where, the next year, the Irex beat the Genesta in a race for it. The yawl Wendur won it from the Irex in 1889. The course to be sailed for the cup over here is from Sandy Hook around the Five Fathom Bank Lightship and back.

The races across the water for the cup have been sailed from Cowes around the Cherbourg breakwater and back.

The Brenton's Reef Challenge Cup was also presented by Mr. Bennett, and the course sailed for it over here is from Sandy Hook around the Brenton's Reef Lightship, off Newport, and back. It was raced for in 1872 by the schooners Madeline and Rambler, the Rambler winning. The next year the same yachts raced again for the cup, and the Rambler again won. In 1876 the schooners America, Idler, Tidal Wave, Wanderer and Countess of Dufferin raced for the cup, and the Idler won. In 1885, the English cutter Genesta took the cup across the water, winning it in a race against the schooner Dauntless. The Irex took the cup away from the Genesta in a race for it from Cowes around the Cherbourg breakwater in 1886. Both the Cape May and Brenton's Reef cups remain on the other side. The international Challenge cup, offered by the Royal Victoria Yacht club, of England, was presented for competition by the yachts of the world in 1891. It is a beautiful cup, valued at $2,500. It has never been raced for, but it is supposed that Royal Phelps Carroll will challenge for it if he goes over to England with his new boat next year.

The most valuable from a monetary point of view, of all the international challenge cups is the one offered by the American Yacht club for competition by steam yachts of all nations. This cup cost $10,000. It has never been challenged for.

A Measure of Social Standing.

Mr. O'Maha—I'm told that Miss Brondsole belongs to an old Chicago family; that her grandfather was one of the earliest porkpackers in the city.

Miss Porkington—An old family! Why, Mr. O'Maha; my grandpa packed pork right here in Chicago before hers ever saw a hog.—Puck.

THE BLACK DEATH.

The Disease Has Appeared in Turkestan, With Great Mortality.

Recent advices from Turkestan tell of the outbreak there of the black death in very virulent form, some thirteen hundred people dying of the disease in a small town inside of six days. The black death is an unfamiliar name in modern times, but in the Middle Ages it was a current term, never spoken without a sense of horror. It passed under different names at times, such as the "Great Death," the "Bubo-plague," the "Plague," and, indeed, it was the plague of the ancients. It was the plague of the time of Trajan, and was first mentioned historically by the physician Rufus of Ephesus, and for two thousand years it has paid periodical visits, chiefly to Mediterranean shores. In the fourteenth century it extended all over Europe, and the mortality was frightful. Fully twenty-five millions of people have succumbed to the scourge, while at the same time in the East twenty-three millions and in China thirteen millions perished. In 1656 some three hundred thousand people were carried off in five months by the plague in Naples. London has been visited many times by the disease, when what is known as the "great plague of London" prevailed in 1664, and about one-sixth of the population of the city was carried off. In Toulon in 1721, one-third of the population perished, says the New York Sun.

Almost the last appearance of the black death in Europe was in 1840 and 1841, in Turkey and Dalmatia. It has never appeared in the United States. Our first accurate knowledge of the scourge dates from its prevalence in Egypt from 1833 to 1845, where it was studied by European physicians as carefully as could be done with the restricted pathological teachings of that time. Since then there have been outbreaks in Irak on the Euphrates in 1867 and in 1875, in 1876 at Bagdad, in 1877 at other points on the Tigris, and again in 1884 in the same parts of Mesopotamia. In 1878 Europe was thrown into a panic by the appearance of the plague on the banks of the Volga, but it was mild in character and died out spontaneously in a short time. The various governments sent commissions to the spot to study and report upon the disorder, but it had quite disappeared when the commissioners arrived, and consequently our scientific knowledge of the disorder was not increased.

We know it to be the most fatal of all epidemic diseases. The mortality varies from sixty to ninety per cent. of those attacked, and occasionally every person affected dies. Not only human beings suffer, but rats, cats, dogs, cattle and other animals become victims to the pestilence. It is undoubtedly an acute infectious disease caused by some micro-organism which has unusually malignant proclivities and which multiplies with enormous rapidity within the body. Death sometimes takes place in a very few hours. Among the symptoms which have contributed to the various designations are enlargement and suppuration of glands and the formation of carbuncles, whence the name "bubo-plague" and hemorrhagic spots and pesechiæ under the skin, rendering the body quite dark or black, whence the origin of the phrase "black death."

Like the cholera and small-pox and several other contagious diseases, it haunts the hot bottoms of the poor, the shiftless, and the squalid. Modern civilization in Europe, with its improved sanitation of cities and perfected water supply, has gradually eradicated most of the epidemics that so ravaged mediæval peoples, but pestilence still lingers among the Orientals where everything it demands for its sustenance and perpetuation is furnished with prodigal liberality; foul water, decaying food, vile habits, filthy houses, unclean vestments, and streets reeking with garbage and offal. So long as these conditions persist, and unhappy, they do persist even under the fostering care of European governments having control in these regions, so long will the East be a constant menace to the health of civilized mankind. While it is hardly probable that the black death will ever again visit Europe in a form so calamitous as formerly, still conditions might at some time become so favorable for the growth and propagation of its germ that it might cause great havoc in certain continental cities such as Astrakhan, Constantinople, and the like, where sanitation is scarcely known even by name.

Steam Locomotive Whistles.

The first use of a steam whistle for locomotives has recently been the subject of considerable discussion in technical circles, and it is now stated to have been in 1833, when the "Samson," an engine belonging to the Leicester & Swannington railway company, ran into a horse and cart loaded with butter and eggs. The engineer had a mouth horn, and could not attract the attention of the driver to avoid an accident. The manager of the line, Ashlen Bagster, reported the circumstance to George Stephenson and suggested that a steam whistle would be a good means of giving a warning at grade crossings. Such an appliance was at once made by a local instrument manufacturer and tried with such success that all the engines were soon fitted with them. A drawing of this whistle, signed by H. Cabry, the company's engine superintendent, and dated May, 1833, shows it to have resembled in outward appearance a fireman's whistle. Steam was admitted through a cock turned by a handle like that on an ordinary water faucet, and as the shaft of this handle is short the whistle was evidently placed on a dome over the rear of the boiler, near the platform on which the engineer stood.

The Australian Rabbit.

The rabbit we hear of as a serious pest in Australia is quite different from the animal we see here on sale during the season. The Australian rabbit is a persevering burrower and it breeds with a rapidity which it is difficult to comprehend. The rabbit of this country is in reality a member of the hare family, and this does not apply to the jack-rabbit exclusively. That speedy animal is obviously a hare both in regard to size and habits, and the small rabbit which is trapped, killed and eaten is also of the hare species. It does not burrow like the native of Europe and the unwelcome emigrant into Australia; it is much more speedy and scary, and its flesh is darker in color and scarcely so tender. There are really no rabbits pure and simple running wild in America, and to judge from the complaints from the Australian colonies, it is decidedly fortunate that there are not.

Rather Unreasonable.

Little Girl—I don't see why teachers has to be so mean.

Aunty—What has yours done?

Little Girl—In the 'stronomy lessons, last term she asked how many moons Jupiter had; and I said five, and she marked me a miss 'cause the book said four. Now she says Jupiter really has five moons, and I wanted her to mark that miss off, and she wouldn't."—Street & Smith's Good News.

An Unmistakable Sign.

Lady of the House—Poor soul! Your husband's death was very unexpected, wasn't it?

The Washerwoman—Laws bless you, no! Why free days before he died I made him some stewed chicken, an' he wouldn't hab it, an' I knowed when he didn't want no chicken he was a goner.—Judge.

The Natural Conclusion.

Bangs (breathlessly)—I just ran down to the club to tell you that I am going to London for a few weeks.

Bings—Well, I don't see that that calls for such an effort at informing us.

Bangs—I know; but I was afraid one of those beastly Keeley cure rumors might attack my reputation before I could reach England to refute it!—Truth.

Very Impolite.

Little Dot—"Mamma, isn't it impolite for folks to whisper?"

Mamma—"Yes, my dear."

Little Dot—"Well, Dick and Johnny has been whisperin' ever so long. They's in the nursery."

Mamma—That is very impolite. Were you near them?"

Little Dot—Yes'm ,I was peekin' through the key-hole."—Street & Smith's Good news.

A Queer Fact.

A scientific writer says that if people on the star Sirius have telescopes powerful enough to distinguish objects on this planet and are looking at it now, they are witnessing the destruction of Jerusalem, which took place over 1,800 years ago. Of course the reason of this is that the light which the world reflects, traveling as it does, at the rate of 186,000 miles per second, would take over eighteen centuries to reach the nearest fixed star.

WITH THE WITS.

A divorce lawyer likes a domestic broil done brown.—Binghamton Republican.

As a rule it takes more to keep up appearances than it takes to support a family.—Galveston News.

He—"Great minds run in the same channel, Miss Effie." Miss Effie (innocently)—"How do you know?"—Detroit Free Press.

"Do you have chestnuts with your turkey?" "I should say so," replied the small boy. "Paw always tries to be funny on holidays."—Washington Star.

Mudge—"Thompson called me an idiot, Yabsley—You needn't mind that—Thompson always does exaggerate more or less."—Indianapolis Journal.

"What's the matter with Sportly? He's dead broke. You know he writes tips on the races for his paper?" "Yes." "Well, he's been playing his own selections."—Buffalo Express.

Miss Madison—"Strange your recital was not a success. The audience said that the audience went wild." Paderubisky—"That means they stampeded for the box-office."—New York Tribune.

"Monopolies ruin me," said Jack Fakir, the artist. "In what way?" "Only one man is allowed to paint Geromes; same way with Bougnereaus—and they're the things that sell."—Harper's Bazar.

Carleton Gates—"Are 'you really so hard up?' Tramps—"Hard up? Why, boss, if I sells of clothes wuz sellin' at a cent apiece, I wouldn't have enough to buy the armhole of a vest!"—Smith, Gray & Co.'s Monthly.

FOUR GOOD SHORT STORIES.

Nothing to Learn.

A boarding-house in this city advertised for a hall boy. Among a host of applicants was a raw-boned, lanky youth who rung the door-bell and was met by the landlady herself.

"Want a boy?" he asked, shifting from one foot to the other.

"Yes," said the landlady, taking an inventory of the applicant.

"House run by a missus?"

"Yes."

"Be you she."

"Yes."

"And you want a boy to tend door, run errands, trot to the grocery, sit in a cold hall, say you're out sixty times a day, and keep agents and tin-peddlers and kids offen th' steps?"

"Yes," said the astonished woman, "that's just what I want."

"Much money in it?" queried the boy.

"Two dollars and fifty cents a week."

"Promises or cash down?"

"You get your money regularly if you earn it."

"I'm your huckleberry, missus. Wot kin I do first—start out on a collectin' tower, or make the fires in the sick boarders' rooms, or watch out for the fellow that is going to slide his trunk out 'thout payin' his board?"

"Look here," said the landlady, "you know too much. I guess we can't make a trade."

"All right, mum. If 'sperience and know-how don't go for something I ain't in it. But you'll be sorry, mum, when the butcher comes around with his last year's bill. I'm a peither of the first water, but you don't——"

She hired him.—Boston Traveler.

The Story of a Clock.

The following account of the origin of a well-known motto for a timepiece, whether true or false, is worth recording:

Some years ago a new clock was made to be placed in Temple hall. When finished the clockmaker was desired to wait on the benchers of the temple who would think of a suitable motto to put under the clock. He applied several times but without getting the desired information, as they had not determined on the inscription. Continuing to importune them, he at last came when the old benchers were met in the Temple hall and had just sat down to dinner. The workman again requested to be informed of the motto. One of the benchers, who thought the application ill-timed and who was fonder of eating and drinking than inventing original mottoes, testily replied: "Go about your business."

The mechanic, taking this for an answer to his question, went home and inserted at the bottom of the clock: "Go about your business," and placed it on the Temple hall, to the great surprise of the benchers, who, upon considering the circumstances, agreed that accident had produced a better motto than they could think of, and ever since the Temple clock has continued to remind the lawyers and the public to go about their business.—Manchester Times.

Lord Beaconsfield.

An official of the House of Lords has given me a couple of anecodes as to the late Lord Beaconsfield which, so far as I know, says the Nottingham Guardian's London correspondent, have hitherto escaped the biographers. On the last occasion on which Mr. Disraeli accompanied the speaker to the bar of the House of Lords for the purpose of royal commission he slipped and fell in the lobby of the house ere he entered its august portals. At the time he had no idea that he was going to be made a peer, but it was the last time he ever entered the house as Mr. Disraeli. But here is another story over which the believers in omens can disport themselves. The duchess of Albany was in the royal gallery of the House of Lords, the debate had become dull, and her royal highness sent a trusty messenger to the House of Commons to see if a place could be found for her in the gallery there. The messenger returned with an intimation that a place would be immediately at her royal highness' disposal, but it wes scarcely worth her while coming round, since the business of the house was over, and it would be up in a minute or two. But her royal highness would in any case have remained where she was, for Lord Beaconsfield had risen a few minutes before the messenger reached. It was the last speech Lord Beaconsfield ever made.—Pall Mall Budget.

Pathetic Want.

It would be hard to find a more pathetic instance of the beggared condition in which soldiers of the field are sometimes found than that given years ago by Gen. Gordon in an account of various scenes connected with the surrender of Lee's army.

When Gen. Gordon determined to send a flag of truce to Gen. Sheridan he summoned Maj. Hunter to his staff and ordered him to carry a flag of truce forward.

"General, I have no flag of truce," replied Maj. Hunter.

"Get one," said the general, curtly.

"General," he replied again, "we have no flag of truce in our command."

"Take your handkerchief and put it on a stick and go forward."

"I have no handkerchief, general."

"Borrow one and go forward with it."

"General, there is no handkerchief in the staff."

"Then, major, use your shirt."

"You see, general, that we all have on flannel shirts."

At last one man was found who still had a white shirt; a part of it was torn off and with his remarkable emblem tied on a stick the major went forward toward the enemy's lines.—Youth's Companion.

These Dear Old Girls.

If we were a girl, we never would quit going to school. A girl is always considered young as long as she trots off to school every day.—Atchison Globe.

A Good Beginning.

Mother—So you wish my daughter for your wife, sir?

He (gallantly)—Partly that, madam, and partly that you may be my mother-in-law.

L'Enfant Terrible.

"Really, my dear," said mamma to her very dear friend, Mr. Call, "My teeth are in such a bad state. I'm afraid I shall lose them all."

"No, no," said Miss Dottie, aged ten. Of her mamma the preciousest pet. "I saw you put them all in the drawer "And I'm quite sure they're there yet."—Chicago News.

OHOLLIE'S CHRISTMAS.

Ah! a present from Laura.

Great Scott! What, is this a letter? Can it be

That she has

Rejected me.

Wanted Particulars.

Little Boy—"Were you in the war?" Gen. Whisker—"Indeed I was and I had many narrow escapes. One ball grazed my arm."

Little Boy—"Couldn't you find a wider tree?"—Street & Smith's good News.

And the Girls Were Left.

The baronet rich was adored.
While his cousin poor was abhorred.
But the rich man died,
And the girls all cried,
For the cousin became the rich lord.
—New York Herald.

3 RULES. EAT properly, SLEEP soundly, BREATHE deeply, and you ought to live 100 years. But you can't do either if you are suffering with catarrh. That foul disease—so offensive and annoying. Aerated Oxygen, used night and morning, cures the worst cases. Physicians recognize its value.

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Chicago Office: 3 & 4 Central Music Hall.
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LADIES! I have a SECRET for YOU. Address Box 21 dress with two 2-cent stamps. Mrs. H. W. HUET, Lock Box 217, Marshall, Mich.

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HOW A book for ladies only. Sealed 25c. GLOBE BOOK CO., Chicago, Ill.

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(24x24, top size)

And Weekly Blade One Year, FOR TWO DOLLARS.

We have contracted for one thousand of the above fine polished oak tables, especially for the subscribers of the BLADE and will supply them in connection with a yearly subscription at EXACT COST. These tables retail in any furniture store for $2.50. For a short time only we will offer this table and the WEEKLY BLADE one year for ONLY TWO DOLLARS. The tables are carefully packed, and we ship them by freight to any part of the United States. Within 500 or 600 miles the freight should not cost over 25 cents; not over 50 cents beyond that distance. Order quickly, the 1,000 will not last long. Address

THE BLADE, Toledo, O.

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Send us at once a photograph of yourself, or any member of your family, living or dead, and we will make you from it an enlarged Portrait, with frame complete, absolutely free of charge. This offer is made in order to introduce our new Portraits and Frames in your vicinity. Put your name and address on back of photos, and send it to BROOKLYN ART UNION, 627 Marcy Ave., cor. Hart St., Brooklyn, N. Y. Refer you to any banks in this city.

From Maine to Mexico

WHAT EVERYBODY SAYS, MUST BE SO!

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East Liverpool, O., Dec. 1.—I find the books very useful, indeed. I think that with care they will last many years, even in the Association Reading Room, where so many have access to them. I am pleased with them.
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Sec'y Y. M. C. A.

Harris, Tenn., Nov. 17.—The Revised Encyclopædia Britannica was received some time back, and which I conceive to be worth twice the amount asked.
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ANDREW EVANS.

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EDWIN W. RICE, D. D.,
Editor the American Sunday School Union.

Atlantic City, N. J., Dec. 1.—I send you a postal note for a set of Revised Encyclopædia Britannica. I thought rather send the whole instead of waiting three months. I liked it very much. I want it for the Atlantic City Working Boys' Free Reading Room. It will make an excellent reference book for them. The print is very good and I think it remarkably cheap.
MRS. A. S. VALENTINE, Treas.

Celina, O., Nov. 12.—I enclose P. O. order for the balance due on the Revised Encyclopædia Britannica. I am well pleased with the books. BERNARD MCGREEVY,
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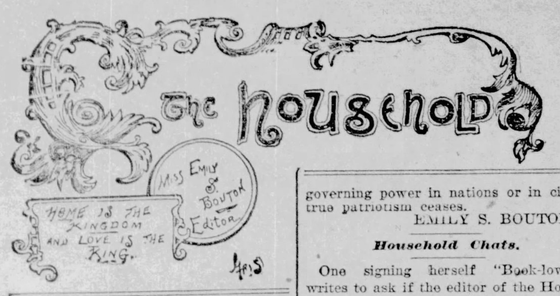


HOME TALKS.

PATRIOTISM IS DYING OUT.

Gratitude for Past Services Not a Ruling Sentiment—Love of Country Cannot Be Taught Entirely by Precept.

I believe patriotism is dying a natural death. It used to be a strong, vigorous thing in this country, thowing out its arms with a hip-hip-hurrah, whenever there was the slightest opportunity. Today all that is changed. The young are too busy to reflect upon the matter. Competition is too lively to permit of any time being spent with sentiment. Of course they think, when they stop to think at all, that this is the biggest country the sun ever shone upon, having a reckless disregard of figures in the reckoning. They believe, if called upon to declare a belief, that this is the greatest nation ever known on the face of the earth, but all of this comes from the sense of self-aggrandizement, and not from a pure love for the land that gave them birth. The middle-aged are cynical—grown so by contemplating the way in which the country treats its old soldiers, they who went forth from their homes in the flush of vigorous manhood, to fight under the flags which traitors had trailed in the dust.

"Theirs not to reason why
Theirs but to do and die."

That was the spirit in which men sprang to arms and went out to meet danger and quite possibly death. And thousands did fall with their faces to the foe; thousands more lost health and strength in the prison pens of the enemy; and still more thousands returned maimed for life or broken in health to pick up the scattered threads of the old days, and try to care for their families. Prosperity has returned to the country, preserved in its integrity by their services. It has grown rich, too, and with wealth and prosperity has come corruption and overwhelming selfishness, and the heroic past is forgotten.

"Forgotten!"

Yes, forgotten; for if there were still the sense of gratitude towards those who saved the country in its hour of peril, there would be no such howling over the paying of the pensions, which is the only way in which such service is here recognized. If the recipients are to be classed as paupers, as they are sometimes characterized, so that brave men shrink, as many now do, from having it known that they are upon the list, how can the younger generation be made to feel that it is a noble thing to be patriotic?

No doubt there are persons who draw pensions which they do not deserve. Perhaps, too, there is rottenness, as asserted, in the administration of the pension bureau, but neither the one thing nor the other is any reason why the army of old soldiers, now rapidly dwindling away, should not be held worthy of gratitude, and receive substantial recognition of their services from their country. The few paltry dollars that come to them from month to month are nothing when placed side by side with the sacrifices which they made when entering the army. It is no wonder that many men who watch these things, knowing what it all means, should feel that, as one expressed it in my hearing, "the country may go to the dogs, before I will enlist in case of war."

We are now to have an administration whose object will be to make open war upon the "pension business." Mr. Cleveland expects thus to distinguish himself, to go into history, another Andrew Jackson, who dared to take hold of and do away with a center of corruption. Let him not flatter himself. He may institute reform where it is needed, but history will not record a fight directed against those who suffered for their country's weal as the work of a statesman or a hero.

It is such things as these, however, that I have spoken of which makes me say that patriotism is dying. And why should it not? Men are not ready to sacrifice all that makes life valuable to be railed at when the hour comes in which some return is asked. Love of country is not fostered that way. Nor will women teach their boys to give themselves to its service, when they must tell them in the same breath how their fathers' patriotism has been rewarded.

It has been often said that republics are ungrateful, and I begin to believe it is true.

I have mentioned the matter of pensions because it is the thing which is more widely talked about than anything else, but there are other signs that he who runs may read if he will.

Not only is there a decay of national patriotism, but that of places seems to be almost utterly wanting. In cities great and small, unanimity of action is constantly absent. Notwithstanding the fact that the bulwark of our Constitution lies in the rule of the will of the majority, it is only necessary to project some new undertaking to have an opposition set up to hamper its carrying out. Chicago is a case in point with reference to the World's Fair. From the beginning there has been constant fighting. The work has gone on, but there have been times when it has seemed as if the whole machinery must stop.

Toledo's pipe line scheme is another example. There was a majority vote that it should be built. If the principle underlying the government be true, then no matter whether that majority was made up of the moneyed men of the city or not, there should have been complete harmony of action in carrying out its will. Had there been patriotism enough in the city to have stood by itself, taken its own bonds, which were systematically depreciated abroad by the corporation whose interest lay in defeating the scheme, and the line built without the long and vexatious delays, the expense would have been greatly lessened, and the city had the benefit of receipts from the gas which the Northwestern industriously drew from its field during the time of building. Even had the gas given out entirely, as no doubt it will eventually on all lines, the city would have been by so much better off to-day.

The greed of gain is, of course, at the bottom of decay of both national and municipal patriotism. The possibilities of acquisition have widened out and increased within the last two or three decades immensely, and with them have come a wild desire for wealth that sweeps all other considerations away. This is the spirit that is abroad, which, unless checked, will make the history of this republic similar to others which have risen, flourished, decayed and passed away. Ours has no such monopoly of vital powers that it can endure the abounding selfishness which divides it against itself.

The duty of patriotism may be talked about at school and by the home fireside, but it is only "sounding brass and tinkling cymbal" to the young when they see its opposite is the rule of action with those they regard as the successful part of community. They come to class the stories of devotion to country with the fairy tales they delighted in and have outgrown. I wonder how many people to-day would thrill to that splendid story of Mr. Hale's, "The Man Without a Country," that created such a sensation when it first appeared years ago. What would it say to the average young man of the day?

One word more and I am done. When I am talking about patriotism, I do not mean in any sense, self aggrandizement at the expense of other countries and peoples, but that sentiment that shall harmonize conflicting thought, and unit action in what the majority has believed to be for the good of the whole. It is the opposite of selfishness in all respects, and whenever that becomes the governing power in nations or in cities, true patriotism ceases.

EMILY S. BOUTON.

Household Chats.

One signing herself "Book-lover," writes to ask if the editor of the Household thinks she—"Book-lover"—is justified in buying "lovely editions" of her favorite books, or in buying books at all, when she has so many ways for using her "little bit" of money, and has access to a public library for her reading. Of course, not being personally acquainted with this correspondent, the editor can not decide whether or no, she is "justified" in buying books. If she can do so by denying herself other things, and not defraud any one else of their just dues, she certainly might be allowed to indulge herself occasionally.

The temptation to own a book that we like; to feel that it is ours to read when we like; to think of, and to return to, at our leisure, is very great. A true, enjoyable understanding of any good book can not be obtained by one reading, especially when we know that it must be returned to the library in a certain time, and we would rather not have the book, if we may not thoroughly enjoy it.

As an investment, books are far beyond almost any other article of house furnishing, if we may be allowed to call them such. In no other direction does so small an expenditure of money go so far toward making a home, of a house. They set a stamp of culture and refinement on a household that can not be obtained by any amount of bric-a-brac or other decorations.

Have your books where you can use them, do not have them locked away behind the doors of a book-case, even though those doors be of plate glass; have them on low, easily reached shelves; on a table, or on the window seat where, when you have a moment's time, you can pick them up and gain from them a beautiful thought to carry with you when you are obliged to leave the book.

In a home where I am privileged to visit, there are books everywhere. In the library proper, one section is devoted to missionary literature; one for reference; one for the school children of the family; while the shelves that fill all sides of the room hold the best books of all nations. In the guest chamber is a shelf with half a dozen volumes of such works as the thoughtful hostess thinks will please the taste of her guest, and these are changed, as the guests come and go. In the children's rooms and in the servant's room are also books, while in the private sitting room of the hostess is a table on which lie her favorites, so that when she is done with her daily cares, she can rest herself with them. I believe that this house is furnished comfortably, as to carpets, chairs, tables and such things, but the only thing that attracts the attention of a visitor is the books.

True, it costs a great deal to accumulate so many books, but in this instance, it is the result of years of careful buying, every book having been chosen for its merits, not because it was popular, and as there was a perfect similarity of taste, in respect to books, between the husband and wife, the process of accumulating such a large collection has been hastened.

If you can not hope ever to have as many books as you would like to have, do not be discouraged. Buy all of the good books you can; buy them for the children and thus encourage in them a taste for reading, and, on no account, let any one consider herself "extravagant" when she buys a book, unless by so doing she deprives herself, or others of those things that are absolutely necessary.

Fancy Work and House Decoration.

A Hat Pin Receptacle.—Get a piece of pale blue satin ribbon, number twelve, eight inches long, over-hand the sides together. Cut two circular pieces of coarse stiff lace which will exactly fit into the ends of the bag just made. Sew one piece in, fill the bag with curled hair, sew the other in; then wind the gold cross formed with narrow cherry color, pink, or white baby ribbon. Fasten a loop to one end to hang it up by. This is very easily made, and very convenient for the purpose.

Veil Case.—Take a piece of pink silk one-half yard long, and eight inches wide, fold it twice so that it will make a pocket with one side to lap over. Cut a piece of white silk the same size for a lining, baste the two together, band with pink ribbon, then fasten the pocket together with pink bows of the same kind of ribbon. On the upper side of the flap paint a bunch of wild roses, or embroider them if desired before the lining is put in. A motto may be put on, as "A Dainty Covering for the Face."

An Invalid's House Shawl.—Get a square of plain heavy lace, such as was used for making pillow tidies a few years ago. It is soft and with very coarse meshes. Have the square perfectly even, then run in and out of the meshes white or lavender single zephyr wool until the whole surface is filled in. Crochet a border of shells two or three deep around the edge, and make a fringe of the wool tied into the edge of the crocheted border. Of course, fringe may be omitted and the border made of many rows of crocheted shells.

Pretty Sofa Pillow.—Get a square of honeycomb or basket canvas, and three shades of pink rope silk. Cut the silk into needlefuls, and then run the canvas with it haphazard. I should have said that a pattern of leaves and flowers was to be stamped upon the center before beginning to run the ground work, and this must be embroidered when the having is finished.

Picture Frame.—Have a large flat frame made of wood unpainted. This can either be made by the carpenter or purchased where artists' materials are sold. Cover the wood with wadding, which is made thicker at the middle in order to give a rounding effect to the frame. Get India silk of a fine quality and covered with exceedingly small figures. The Dresden china pattern is pretty. If the figured silk cannot be purchased, plain silk may be embroidered, but the work must be done very neatly, and the figures pressed carefully before the silk is put on the frame. Then draw the silk over the frame, tack it neatly on the under side, paste paper over the rough edges, or rather cover the whole back with paper, letting it come out nearly to the edge of the frame, thus covering the edges of the silk.

Knitting and Crocheting.

Knitting abbreviations—k, knit; p, purl or seam; p 2 tog, purl two together; narrow; s and b, slip and bind; tto, throw thread over; b, bind; o, over; sl, slip; m, make.

Crocheting abbreviations—l, loop; s c, single crochet; d c, double crochet; ch st, chain stitch; cl ch st, close chain stitch; d ch st, double chain stitch; p, picot; r c, ribbed crochet; c t st, crossed treble stitch; sh st, shell stitch; o sh st, open shell stitch; tr, treble; sh c, short crochet.

Shell Lace.—Cast on 22 stitches. Knit plain the first time. 1st row—Slip 1—k 3—thread o—p 2 tog—k 3—thread o and narrow 7 times—k 1. 2d row—K 2—p 1—repeat across the entire needle. 3d row—Slip 1—k 3—thread o and p 2 tog—k 22. 4th row—K 22—thread o—p 2 tog—k 14. 5th row—Slip 1—k 3—thread o—p 2 tog—k 22. 6th row—Slip 1—k 3—then slip and bind off 6 stitches—k 15—thread o—p 2 tog—k 4.—Farm and Fireside.

Correspondence.

Some Pretty and Inexpensive Presents for Christmas.—We are having our first snow storm and it reminds me Christmas is coming. Here is something pretty and inexpensive for people whose hearts are more overflowing with love, than their purses with money.

Take tea chest matting (obtainable at any grocery store) and make a paper holder in this fashion. Take two pieces of thin board, one 12x15 inches, the other 12 inches square, cover with the matting, fasten closely together at the bottom with three ribbon bows, and loosely at the top of the 12-inch board at each corner, on the square which is of course, the front; paint a spray of tulips, poppies, white or yellow daisies, or autumn leaves. Thin your paint with turpentine, and they are all easy to paint.

Take an oblong piece of matting and bind all around with bright ribbon or silk. Fringe out some of the matting and fasten across the lower end and hang with ribbon to match the binding. Now paint a winter scene over a large space in the center and sprinkle with diamond dust, and you will have a very pretty banner indeed. If one does not paint, they may trim out suitable pictures and fasten on with mucilage and the effect will be very pretty.—M. S. H.

A Pleasant Memory to Brighten a Dreary Day.—Now, when the days are so cold and gloomy, would you not like to hear of a beautiful flower garden that I had the pleasure of seeing last summer? Its happy owner is a literary woman, who is a great friend of mine. I called on her one afternoon, and bidding me a kindly welcome, she gave me an easy rocker on the cool piazza which was draped with clinging vines.

Having discussed the leading topics of the day, not excepting her latest work on the "World's Fair," she invited me out to admire her summer beauties. In the first place, this lovely little bird nest of a home is about a quarter of a mile from the village; the house stands on a hill, at the foot of which runs a silvery stream. The yard is as even as a floor. She first showed me her crazy bed, and indeed it was rightly named, for you could have found any flower from the stately lily to a daisy. She had procured the seed already mixed for a few cents and I am sure she was fully repaid by its fragrance and beauty. At the front of the bay window lay a bed of brilliant petunias, the gravel walks were all bordered with pansies, great melting beauties, intermixed with phlox of almost every imaginable shade. Two large catalpas and a weeping ash, stood near the gate, under which were placed benches of flowers and rustic seats.

A bed of geraniums was a marvel of beauty; it was a solid mass of bloom and rivaled in richness the ruddy glow of sunset, or the pale flush of dawn. Tall clumps of dahlias and peonies nodded in the breeze, while shrubs were scattered about in pretty confusion.

A large gourd, painted canary color, contrasting with the dark green vines it held, was supported by three broom-sticks crossed, as for a stand. An old carriage wheel fastened to a post, made a charming trellis for a climbing rose which was blushing a deep pink from the very fact of its resplendent beauty.

North of the house, ran the shaded driveway, which was also bordered with flowers. Near this was the fernery; she had procured the ferns in the woods when they were small, and now they stood in great feathery masses, equal to any of the green-house ferns.

Here also was a tall rockery, built half round. In this were pansies and carnations, while just behind nodded sweet williams, goldenrod and hollyhocks, to give an air of natural simplicity to the scenes.

A long archway of fragrant honeysuckles added to the beauty of the place.

If you could take a peep at this little Eden you would say, probably, that I did not do it half justice, yet all this was accomplished by a little money, care and good taste.—Kittie Wray.

Correspondence Clippings.

Be good to the children. Kiss them and love them. Yes, kiss them when they are hurt. They appreciate kindness, and it does them so much good to know that mamma sympathizes with them. The dear babies have their troubles as well as big folks. I say, love them as long as you have them with you; sympathize with them; teach them to come to you with everything and never betray their confidence. Make company of your children. It won't hurt you to be a child with them, and Oh, mothers, don't ever scold, or slap, or threaten to whip for little offenses. Remember they inherit their parents' dispositions, and no scolding, or whipping can change that. My motto is, rule through love, not fear, and never lose your own temper while governing the little ones. They are the exact counterpart of their mother. How often we see little ones loud and cross with each other, and often strike and even fight each other. Now, in my opinion, this is all a mother's fault. Teach them kindness towards each other, speaking lovingly to them in a soft, sweet voice, and you will never have any need of scolding or whipping. Some one will say, "Oh, I have no time to do all this." But, mothers, you must take the time. It will more than pay you in the end. Now, I speak from my own experience, and if any one wants any more advice I will give it freely.—Aunt Phebe.

I would like to become a member of the Household, and I hope that the fragrant (?) remedy that I bring with me this time will not prevent myentrance. It is, that a pill of asafoetida, taken twice a day will surely cure la grippe, and there will be no bad effects of the disease left afterward, if this treatment is followed for a week or so. Ask your druggist about what size pill you can safely take, as I have forgotten just how large they were to be. It does not smell very good, but it certainly has a good effect.—Barbara Allen.

I, too, have tried to earn some money with which I could attend the Columbian Exposition next year, and I am free to confess that I am quite discouraged. I have my family to care for, which takes all of my time during the day. The only thing I can do in the evening is darning. So, last March I engaged to darn the hose of five families at two cents a pair. This averaged four pairs for each family, or twenty pairs a week, some needing considerable mending, others not so much; but I could easily do the twenty pairs in five evenings, enabling me to send them home Saturday. The new supply for the next week was then returned to me. I have kept this up for 40 weeks, and earned just $16, and it doesn't seem as if at that rate I shall ever get to Chicago. But the editor asked for "experiences," so I have given mine, as I think it a poor return for all she gives us, if we pay no attention to her requests.—Ruth Hall.

Inquiries.

Will some one tell me what will prevent snoring—for a time at least? Also what will prevent threads from knotting while hemstitching?—Gaylie.

Will Harry S. Early send plain directions for making a flat chain, of hair?—Mrs. M. S.

Will some one send a recipe for corning beef so it will keep through hot weather?

Did any of the ladies try making a scrap-book out of the useful hints and recipes of the Household? I have, and find it very handy.—Farmer's Wife.

Will some one tell how to prevent earthen pie-plates from "tainting" the pies after they have been used a little while?—Rural.

Can any one enlighten me as to the cause, or give remedy for a sensation of dryness, or a feeling that the pores of the skin are all closed up? Frequent bathing gives only temporary relief. I have bathed in salt water and in turpentine. What will make cold feet warm? —O. S. M.

Please give me good directions for making black and red ink.—Maud L. Paden.

Will some one give a full description of some costumes for a masquerade party? Also, tell how to make the masks?—Nellie Bradney.

Answers to Inquiries.

Mary Roy:—If your father or mother should invite the young man, who is to be away from his own home at Christmas time, to spend the day with them, it would not only be proper, but very kind of them; but it would not be proper for a young lady to invite any gentleman to her home except with her mother's consent, and at her request.—Ed.

Topsey:—If you obtain a patent on your "dish-washer," no one has a right to make them without permission from you. If you know of any person doing so, you can have them punished by the law.—Ed.

Mrs. N. B. S.:—We cannot give you the address of Jean Hunt. We have no right to do so without her permission, and it is against the rule of this department to give addresses for private correspondence.—Ed.

Subscriber:—Introducing your husband, you should say: "My husband, Mr. Smith." In speaking of him to strangers, use either form you please, but unless speaking to very intimate friends of the family, do not call him by his christian name. The same rule applies to your husband when he is speaking of you. In addressing a letter to a gentleman, always use the prefix, Mr., unless he has a title.—Ed.

Pansy:—The best known remedy for nose bleeding is to bathe the face and neck in cold water.—Violet.

Mrs. L. R.:—To restore gilt picture frames, rub with a sponge moistened in turpentine.

E. P. M.:—I have found quinine to be the best medicine to keep off the grip and other diseases. Take in capsules.

"A Willful Beauty:"—Yes, I would say it would be very unladylike to not notice your teacher's proffered hand.—Pansy.

Tell R. Rough and "An Affected One" to use pure glycerine on their hands, on the appearance of cracking.—Baltimore.

"Jean Hunt," I have paassed some of your instructions along to four sisters, who are truly thankful to you for writing to them.—Mollie.

My thanks are due to "Jean Hunt," who so beautifully described how to make the dress I asked about. She has my best wishes for her future life and happiness.—Pansy.

Recipes.

Cocoanut Cookies.—1 cupful butter; 2 cupfuls sugar; 2 eggs; 1 cupful grated cocoanut; 2 teaspoonfuls baking powder; flour to roll out. Roll very thin, bake quickly, but not brown.—Alice.

Queen of Puddings.—1 pt. fine bread crumbs; 1 qt. milk; 1 cupful sugar; yolks of 4 eggs well beaten; grated rind of one lemon; butter the size of an egg. Bake until done. Whip the whites of the eggs stiff, and beat in 1 cupful of sugar, into which has been stirred the juice of the lemon. Spread on the pudding a layer of jelly or jam. Pour the whites of the eggs over this, and brown lightly.—Beryl Boise.

Apple Fritters.—Make a batter of 1 cupful sweet milk; 1 teaspoonful sugar; 2 eggs; whites and yolks beaten separately; 2 cupfuls flour; 1 teaspoonful baking powder, mixed with flour; a little salt. Chop tart apples, mix in the batter, and fry in hot lard. Serve with maple syrup.—Christine.

Parsnip Balls.—Boil in salted water until very tender; mash and season with butter, pepper and salt; add a little flour and 2 well-beaten eggs. Form into small balls, and fry in hot lard.—Daisy Durell.

Lady Cabbage.—Chop the cabbage very fine, cook in boiling water 1-2 hour. Drain, and season highly with salt and pepper, 1-2 cupful milk, 1 tablespoonful butter. Cook a few minutes and serve.—Elsie Mayhew.

Creamed Oysters.—1 pt. oysters; 1 pt. cream; a small piece of onion; a very small piece of mace; 1 tablespoonful flour, salt and pepper to taste. Let the cream, with the mace and onion, come to a boil. Mix the flour with a little cold milk, or cream, and stir it into the boiling cream. Let the oysters come to a boil in their own liquor, skim carefully, drain off all the liquor, turn the oysters into the cream, skim out the mace and onion and serve.—Freda.

Spanish Eggs.—Cook 1 cupful of rice for 1-2 hour in 2 pts. of boiling water, containing a tablespoonful of salt. Drain through a cullender; add 1 tablespoonful butter. Spread on a platter and on it place 6 dropped eggs.—Georgiana M.

Delicate Omelet.—1 cupful warm milk; 1 tablespoonful melted butter; 1 tablespoonful flour wet with a little cold milk; 1 teaspoonful salt; a little pepper, and the yolks of 6 eggs. Add to this the whites of the eggs beaten to a stiff froth and bake 20 minutes.—Mrs. Albert Soule.

A Nice Dish for Breakfast.—Beat 1 egg with a pinch of salt. Pour in 2-3 pt. of water. Slice some bread, dip in the egg and water, and fry in butter.—Rebecca Carter.

Steamed Beef-steak Pudding.—1 qt. flour; 1 large teaspoonful lard; 2 teaspoonfuls cream of tartar; 1 teaspoonful soda; 2 cupfuls milk or water; a little salt; 1 1-2 lbs. beef-steak. Roll out the crust and line a deep earthern dish; lay in part of the steak, a little butter, salt and a few cloves; then lay on the rest of the steak, seasoning as before. Turn the crust up over the whole, and steam 2 hours.

Buns.—1-2 cupful yeast; 1-2 cupful sugar; 1-2 cupful butter; 1 1-2 cupfuls milk; 1-2 nutmeg; little salt; flour to make stiff batter. Mix together at night, and in the morning add 1-2 cupful sugar and some currants, and bake in a quick oven.—A. T. Yale.

The Advertising

Of Hood's Sarsaparilla is always within the bounds of reason because it is true; it always appeals to the sober, common sense of thinking people because it is true; and it is always fully substantiated by endorsements which, in the financial world would be accepted without a moment's hesitation.

For a general family cathartic we confidently recommend **Hood's Pills.**

FASHION NOTES.

Would you remodel your last season's gown at small cost? The give it sleeves, collar and girdle of really good velvet in a harmonious or contrasting shade.

The fur scarfs and huge muffs that were the vogue early in the century are worn by many leaders of fashion recently returned from abroad and the coal-scoop bonnet is worn with them.

Glaze kids are accepted as smarter than the suede. Gloves, save for evening wear, are not more than four-buttoned. With most costumes modish women elect to wear gloves in some shade of gray.

Red is very much the fashion and seems to have a growing vogue. Whil many persons have a decided antipathy to this color, on a drear, gray day in winter some of the richer shades really have a tonic effect.

The fashionable violet known as "eminence," or "pontifical" purple, is by no means universally becoming in color, and women who have not really very good complexions should eschew it in all its ramifications.

The pretty little Bolero, Figaro and Eton jackets have taken a new lease of popularity, which is quite natural, since it takes but a small amount of velvet to make them, and there is really nothing which so richly completes a new gown or so modernizes an old one.

Fine lace of embroidered muslin scarfs are being much used for evening wear. Women who have an eye for color will seize the opportunity these scarfs offer for touching up a somber costume. When worn gracefully scarfs of this sort add much to the appearance o fa well-dressed woman.

Repped gowns more or less elaborately patterned appear in bottle or reseda green, marine blue, vandyke brown and magenta. These materials are most fetching when simply made. As with a rich black silk worn in a ballroom full of color, these dresses are more fetching when severe in line and treatment.

More elaborate than ever before are the silk petticoats designed for evening wear. One model that is of green and crimson shot silk has the lower edge alternately filled with red and green silk. Narrow ruffles of black lace, with the upper edges threaded in and out with bebe ribbon, fall over those of the silk.

A new development of lace decoration has taken the form of what is termed the "simplified shadow skirt." It is intended for evening wear only, and is a fall of lace hanging either from a low-cut bodice or from the lower side of the yoke of a slight and dressy cape is of dark green corded silk, with immense empire bretelle-like revers spreading over the shoulders and back from a few inches below the neck. These capes are usually edged with a roll of otter, seal or some other rich fur.

The most fashionable collar is the one that is quite straight and is as high as it can comfortably be worn. To make a last winter's collar higher add a small band of chenille ormoss trimming, such as is often used for decorating the bottom of skirts. Or, again, bebe ribbon sewed in many loops to a ribbon foundation and forming a thick ruche is not only a neat and stylish dimming for the neck but for the whole bodice.

Groves of orange rich in perfume.
With their odors freight the breeze;
SOZODONT, for healthful fragrance,
Cannot be surpassed by these.
Teeth by it are snow white rendered;
Take no substitute if tendered.

Sudden.

Sally—Ethel and I are so interested in you.

Jim—Kind, certainly; but why?

Ethel—We had our fortunes told. One is to marry you, and the other is to be bridesmaid.—Life.

—A HARD COUGH distresses the patient and racks both Lungs and Throat. Dr. D. Jayne's Expectorant is the remedy wanted to cure your Cough, and relieve both the Pulmonary and Bronchial organs.

OUR NEW YORK LETTER

DESCRIBING XMAS DOINGS.

All About Silver Gifts—They Are of Wide Variety and Very Beautiful —Some Things That Venders of Xmas Wares Do.

Editor Blade Household:—For any one who has several dollars to expend on each Christmas gift, the great variety of articles in silver will doubtless prove to be most alluring.

The noted establishments on Broadway, whose advertisements are seen all the year round in the monthly magazines, are making dazzling displays in their windows. Everything to be desired for the dresser, writing desk or work table can be easily found in unique design and exquisite taste.

In addition to the silver-backed brushes that come in sets of six or eight pieces, and that in themselves make an attractive profusion on the top of the bureau, there are powder boxes, pin trays, manicure sets, candle sticks of antique design, hand mirrors, round, heart shaped or square, and bottles of various shapes and sizes encased in silver.

And then there are the daintiest trifles for my lady's spindle-legged desk. Gold-lined stamp boxes, stands for postal cards and envelopes, silver mounted tablets for engagement lists, enormous ink stands, blotting pads with massive silver handles, book marks and paper cutters, and silver pen-holders, both plain and elaborately chased. A very pretty idea is a folding silver frame in which is a portrait of one's favorite poet, a dainty photograph of his birthplace occupying the other side.

Robert Burns is one of the most attractive, as his peasant home is unusually picturesque. Whittier's kind old face, and Shakespere, with his high forehead and pointed beard, are also particularly pleasing ones of the series. The photographer's work on these is so fine that the pictures look like small etchings. They can also be found without the silver frames.

For the conspicuous afternoon tea table are oddities in silver that are hard to resist. Beautiful little perforated balls for making the tea, strainers that are fairy-like in the delicacy of their design, and cups of crimson, or dark green glass set in silver holders of exactly the same shape. The spoon craze is by no means over, if one is to judge by the quantities shown.

There is every design from the perfectly plain grandmother spoon, with its old-fashioned, slender bowl, to the heavily enameled gold ones. Between these two extremes are numberless fancies carried out in silver, some of the oxidized handles looking as if they had been dug up at Pompeii, so crooked and dark are they.

When one sees silver mounted emeries, scissors with antique silver handles, and needle books whose backs are thickly crusted with the precious metal, it is difficult to connect them in one's mind with the traditional disordered workbasket of the mother of a family.

In truth such costly tools are fit only for the daintiest fancy work, done by the fairest hands. No European princess could have a more beautiful thimble than some that are now being sold for the occasional use of the rich women of New York. The necessary roughness is obtained by making the main part of the thimble of tiny flowers that are closely joined together; the lower edge is studded with precious stones, the effect being that of a Russian enamel.

In the many little accessories to a handsome toilet very elaborate and large belt and garter buckles are especially noticeable. They are made of either gold or silver; if of the former, they are usually studded with gems. Some of the garter buckles are really magnificent. To put several hundred dollars into a pair thickly studded with diamonds seems an utter waste of money that could do so much good in this city alone.

Handsome card cases are more of a necessity, however, and beautiful designs are being shown by the score. The cases are all very large and contain various compartments, so that they can be used as purses. The corners of all are made of silver, very frequently put on in an open design that shows the leather underneath, and at the same time covers considerable space. Lizard's skin is a very popular leather, and it is really very pretty, though it looks slightly snaky. Little suede is used in these cases, the preference being given to dressed leather, to which is given various tints. There are all the shades of tan and brown that are always refined and serviceable. But the startling cases are exhibited in profusion; they are made of pale green, old pink, robin's-egg blue, lavender or white leather, heavily ornamented with silver. The initials of the owner are frequently put in silver upon the back. The letters are usually small script, and run diagonally.

By the way, you never see a New York woman carrying her purse in her hand. They are too frequently snatched away by some poor wretch in the crowded streets. Many ladies have a big, square pocket sewed onto the front of their petticoats, just above the knees, and they all unite in saying, "Do not carry any more money with you than you are sure you are going to need."

Venders of Xmas Wares in New York.

Blase European travelers are very apt to say that there is nothing picturesque in New York; that all of the buildings are hideously modern; that the straight streets are uncompromisingly monotonous and that the constant rush and roar of the vehicles and people destroy any chance of seeing an occasional peculiarity of dress or color on the crowded sidewalk.

At the present season, when the retail streets are thronged with elegantly dressed women and girls whose trig tailor-made suits and boutonnieres of violets give them a very attractive, slightly masculine air, the effect of wealth, one might say of magnificence, is heightened by the contrast afforded by the street venders of Christmas wares. There are scores of them on Fourteenth street, nearly as many on Twenty-third, and they have even gained a foothold on the pavements of more conservative Broadway.

The other day I heard a woman telling of her experience with them on an expedition for Christmas gifts that she made with her little daughter.

"No sooner had I stepped off the car," said she, "than I had my first encounter. I was trying to pilot Dorothy through the crowd when I was brought to a standstill by a hideous face that was making grimaces at me not six inches from my nose. I looked around indignantly, and was greeted by the shout of the Irishman who had perpetrated the joke, 'Only ten cents apiece, lady; ten cents apiece for the ugliest faces in creation.' And so they were, a handful of the ugliest India rubber heads that the children love to play with. With difficulty I escaped only to be met by a man prancing along in a gay harness, hung with bells; behind him was a string of children, fascinated by his antics and longing for one of the red or blue sets of reins that hung over his arm.

"You see I had gone down town solely on Dorothy's account, and had made up my mind that she should have the pleasure of stopping to look at everything that had interest for a child. So the next thing we did was to join a group on the corner; a big policeman kept his watchful eye on the boys, of which it was chiefly composed, and I felt secure in stopping. Just as we were edging our way into the midst of it, there was a shout of laughter, and the boys parted enough to let one of their number escape. His face was dripping with water, and I soon discovered that he was the victim of one of those tiny cameras that squirt water in the face of the poser, instead of perpetuating the silly expression that he has planned for his new picture.

"Dorothy had a dollar to spend, and one of these cameras was her first purchase.

"Confident that we had bought something that would please her small boy cousin, we started for the toy shop; but we never reached it. Dorothy was unable to resist the various things that she saw on the street, and had soon squandered her money.

"Once, when we paused to watch the puppets dancing in the glass top of an Italian piano, I felt a hand suddenly upon my arm, and found myself confronted by the most lugubrious old Semite who was determined to sell me a black watchguard, some shoe strings or a pair of green spectacles. I don't know when I should have escaped from his clutch if an innocent old countryman had not stopped to make a bona fide purchase. Then we fled, only to be importuned by the suspenders man. Frowning on him and pushing past the blind boy who sells cheap music, I finally planted Dorothy in front of a jolly young fellow in shabby clothes who had mechanical toys for sale. There were dogs and rabbits, monkeys and dancing bears tied to thin, disreputably clad little masters, all made of tin, and having clock-work inside, which, after being wound up, makes them move about in a manner wonderfully like the animals that they represent. It was really funny to see a little brown spaniel jumping around so vigorously that you felt sure he was barking at you. Dorothy was naturally fascinated, and the little dog was soon in my shopping bag.

"As we turned away, I was conscious of a great mass of something bearing down upon me, and in another instant my hat was almost knocked off by a man carrying quantities of paper flowers upon his back. Such atrocities I never before saw outside of some of the small villages in Germany. There were camelias, zinias and dahlias of the most ludicrous purplish shades, and fastened onto branches of holly and mountain laurel, to make them look natural, I suppose! And the roses—I just wish you could have heard that man calling them American Beauties! It is a wonder to me where such people find out the names of fashionable flowers, and then, when they tack them onto such enormities, the effect upon one's mind is positively stunning. While I was philosophizing in this strain, and at the same time watching a man selling red, white and blue tissue paper plumes, for what purpose I could not guess, Dorothy screamed, 'Oh, mamma, mamma, do look at these little rabbits! Oh, please let me buy one for a pet, with the rest of my money!'"

"In a sheltered doorway stood a gentle-faced old woman, who smiled at the excited child that was jumping up and down in front of her. In her hands was a large pasteboard box, in which were six little white rabbits, contentedly munching some crushed lettuce leaves. They really were very pretty, with their pink eyes and with a blue ribbon tied around their necks, and as Dorothy had enough money, with the exception of a dime, which I provided, to buy one, I let her do it. Added to other numerous packages, we now had a live animal to take care of. Dorothy insisted upon having the little basket which the rabbit was placed in for her own especial charge, and handed over to my keeping at least ten circulars and cheap picture-cards that had been graciously accepted by her whenever offered. Then there were tinsel ornaments for her Christmas tree, a funny little acrobat on a spring which constantly flew out of its paper wrapping, a big candy pear, three popcorn balls, and last but not least, an enormous cat, made of muslin stuffed with cotton. You can imagine that with all of these bundles, my train and muff to carry, and Dorothy to watch, I was slightly weary as I climbed the stairs of the elevated road. As the train whizzed off uptown, I heaved a sigh of relief that I was out of reach of those unmerciful street venders, and yet I could not help pitying the poor wretches who must really suffer with the cold and dampness, standing, as they do, for hours on the pavement."

R. B. Wyllyss.

New York, December 20, 1892.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS

Swing Away, Baby.

Swing away, Baby, in the tree top;
Though the wind blows, I've no fear that you'll drop;
Should the bough break it won't matter at all;
Others below you can catch in your fall.

Swing away, Baby; your little fist
Shows how your forefathers used to exist;
In your wee fingers a Robinson sees
Proof that your ancestors lived up in trees.

Swing away, Baby; if your hand grows
Tired, you can rest it by using your toes.
Ere boots and shoes have distorted the shape,
Due to the ancient quadrumaneous ape.

Swing away, Baby. Monkey and man,
Both have been made upon one common plan.
One missing feature you'll live to bewail:
Only a rudiment's left of your tail.

Swing away, Baby, swing! You have not
Need of a cradle, a crib, or a cot.
Mansion or cottage, or lodgings or flat;
Trees, only trees, are you true habitat.

—From the St. James Gazette.

CHUB'S CHRISTMAS;

Or, The Newsboy on Number 12.

"Fulton! Fulton!" yelled the brakeman. The car door swung open, and a gust of cold air swept down the aisle, blew against the faces of the passengers and then dropped and circled chillingly about their feet. A couple of passengers in the forward end of the car arose and passed out, leaving the door open. The remaining occupants shivered and drew their wraps closer about them, waiting impatiently till the engine, which stood puffing and wheezing upon the track, should have again collected its iron forces and be ready for the start to the city of Milburne, which lay some fifty miles before it.

It was Christmas Eve, and No. 12 on the Milburne & Kanawaw branch of the Great Western railroad, was heavily loaded with an unusually large freight of joyous humanity. The rear coaches were filled with well-dressed men and women hastening to firesides that offered increased attraction to tired men and business men. Bundles were reposing upon almost every bunch of available space, and good natured smiles hovered about the lips, and glistened in the eyes of the passengers. In all the car there seemed to be but one soul that was not filled with the good cheer and happiness of the Christmas season. The one creature who seemed to have received none of the cheerfulness that had settled upon those about him, was a boy of some sixteen years, who sat with his nose pressed against the window-pane, and gazed out at the red switch-light which stood opposite. He was dressed in the uniform worn by the newsboys on this route, and was known to every trainman on the branch road as Chub.

To tell the truth, Chub was disconsolate to-night. He had been about all day hustling for all he was worth to get money for Christmas, but somehow, people did not buy. Again and again he had trudged through the train, and deposited his books and candies and knick-knacks by the side of impassible strangers, and again and again as he trudged back, he had been forced, sadly to take them up, one by one, and return with them to his seat in the smoking car. He had almost given up now. If people wouldn't buy, they wouldn't, and what was the use to try? He had wanted money though. That morning as he left his old mother at Milburne, he had thought that if luck would just stand him in hand for that day, they could have some Christmas after all; he had even hoped that he might be able to sell enough to buy her a new dress which she needed so badly, and had gone off dreaming of the happiness it would cause in her fond heart to awake and find the dress by her bedside; but now—tears came into his eyes as he thought of her in her faded old dress, and he tugged miserably at a wretchedly small pile of nickels in his vest pocket. A bang of the door aroused him. The train was about to start and the last passenger had just come aboard. Slowly Chub pulled himself together and surveyed the stranger with a commercially-calculating eye. Perhaps there

News of the Week.

The Blade is a newspaper for free American citizens, and under the above head, aims to give, first, those events which are the history and progress of the world for the week—those which every intelligent man needs to know and should know; second, all important political events; and, lastly, the leading minor occurrences that possess interest to every educated and thinking reader.

THOSE REVENUE CUTTERS

GREAT INTEREST IS EXCITED.

The Feeling That Great Britain Is Getting Ready For Possible Trouble With the United States.

Washington, Dec. 23.—(Special.)—The Blade's exposure of the real facts relative to the alleged Canadian revenue cutters continues to attract much attention here, and officers of the War, State and Navy departments are being quietly urged to get whatever further information they can of the details as to the situation. The Blade's article is eagerly read in the Navy department and Secretary Tracy has requested to be permitted to retain the article and its accounts of the description of vessels for reference.

Both Treasury and Navy departments are working in harmony with regard to the placing of revenue cutters on the great lakes. A bill to supply two cutters which passed the Senate some time ago was amended by the House committee so as to provide for only one. The measure was to have been considered in the House a day or two ago, but was postponed owing to the lack of a quorum. By the passage of this bill Congress can meet any movement of Great Britain, for the plans which have already been drawn propose steel vessels capable of armament in case of emergency.

Government Is Not Idle.

Besides this they will be provided with coal bunkers large enough to carry fuel for steaming 3,000 miles. It will thus be seen that this government has not been idle during the talk of placing English revenue cutters on the lakes, and if the policy of the administration is carried out the term "revenue cutter" will be but another name for a thoroughly equipped war vessel, well armed, swift of speed, and the equal of any vessel that England can either build on the Canada shore or transport through the canals from the St. Lawrence to the lakes.

Gen. Miles's plain talk causes cold chills at the State and Navy departments, where there is a disposition to make as little prominence of the matter as possible. It is held at the State department that if the British government should take Gen. Miles seriously, and should instruct the British minister at Washington to make complaint at his language, the situation would be exceedingly embarrassing, and a satisfactory explanation exceedingly difficult. At the War department a less lenient view is taken of Gen. Miles's "break." Neither Secretary Elkins nor Gen. Schofield cared to discuss the matter, though it is understood that they regard his language as both indiscreet and unbecoming of a man of his official position.

WHAT GEN. MILES SAYS.

The Construction of War Vessels is a War Declaration.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—"If Canada has built and armed three vessels for service on the lakes, as described by the officers of the revenue marine service at Washington, it amounts to a declaration if war," said Major General Nelson A. Miles, alluding to the report that the Dominion has increased its armed force on the great lakes.

"I do not want to be quoted as saying that Canada or Great Britain means war," said Gen. Miles. "The fact is, though, that these three vessels are in direct violation of the treaty of 1817, which limits the war vessels that either our government or Great Britain can maintain on the lakes to a certain number and limits their gun power. The action of the Canadian authorities in building the three vessels described by the officer of the revenue marine service violates the treaty in both particulars.

"England can send a large fleet of light draught war vessels up the St. Lawrence river into the great lakes, which could burn every town from Duluth to Detroit. And the singular thing is that the United States could do scarcely anything by way of defense, so far as doing battle on the water is concerned, for, while we have some light draught war ships that could get through the canal, we could not get them to the upper lakes for the reason that they would have to pass through British possessions, and that Canada or Great Britain would not allow."

THE FEELING IN WASHINGTON.

The Canadian Cruisers What They Were Intended to Be.

Washington, Dec. 22.—(Special.)—Gen. Miles's statement that Great Britain's construction of vessels on the lakes amounts to a declaration of war, makes quite a stir at the War and Navy departments to-day. Some of the old naval officers who feel that Gen. Miles in going into discussion on this subject is rather encroaching upon their bailiwick, intimate that he has been talking rather freely, and that the situation is not as bad as he pictures it.

Secretary Tracy declines to discuss the matter at present, but is understood to be satisfied with the situation, which he has been watching carefully for a long time, and on which he is doubtless well posted. The officers of the War and Navy departments are all on the alert in the matter, and some of them make no concealment of their anxiety.

"To any one at all acquainted with naval armaments and naval matters generally," said one yesterday, "it will be at once apparent that either the Constance, Petrel or Curlew is, singly, more than a match for our combined lake force, which consists of the revenue cutters Perry, Johnson and Fessenden, with the old Michigan, the only naval vessels allowed on the lakes by the treaty of 1817, thrown in, and in event of war these three British revenue cutters, even if no more were built, could sink those old side wheelers quickly and "To a queen's taste," fire a few incendiary shells into our lake cities and steam for the canal, within which their hull dimensions would enable them to maneuver with ease and effectively patrol it until a fleet of light-draft English cruisers, already probably conveniently concentrated, could emerge from the St. Lawrence river, cross Lake Ontario and ruin them, and after which a sufficient canal guard could be detached and our lake cities be treated to an appalling naval demonstration, against the ravages of which our country would to-day be powerless to defend them.

Land Forces of No Avail.

"A rush of land forces on our part to the Welland canal locks would be simply a waste of energy and material, even if a speedy concentration of troops of any kind could be effected, as the rapid fire guns of the ships, backed by Canadian militia, would quickly emasculate such an effort, and our land batteries could not hope to pierce the armor of the cruisers.

"It is generally assumed in this country that no vessel of over 9 feet 6 inches draft can be passed into Lake Erie from the St. Lawrence, but as a matter of fact, vessels of twelve feet draft have passed through under favorable conditions of strong westerly winds, and by having resource to 'Camels,' while a length of 187 feet can be gotten through the Cornwall canal by good maneuvering, and it is predicted by experts that the improvements now being rapidly made, will admit of passing vessels of 225 feet in length through any part of the lake canal system.

"Take this event at a glance at the British naval list will show that over ninety-three war vessels of a formidable type—torpedo gunboat cruisers of the Sharpshooter class, which can make fully 19 knots per hour—are available to sweep from our fresh water any fort that could be hastily improvised or constructed to cope with them. It has been claimed that this class of British war vessels draw from fourteen to fifteen feet of water, but it must not be overlooked, naval officers urge, that everything of weight on them, except their machinery, can be lifted by steam lifts into lighters which can be towed astern, and the draught reduced sufficiently by that means to permit their passage through the canals as they will be improved. The Welland canal locks are now affording 14 feet of water on the sills."

The Navy department, it is said, has drawn in the rough a series of designs for a number of lake revenue cutters, which would possess a speed of 20 knots per hour and carry batteries of 4-inch rapid-fire ordnance rifles and crews of seventy-five or eighty men.

WE HAVE STIRRED 'EM UP.

Publication of Cruiser Facts Will Push American Lake Ships.

Washington, Dec. 21.—(Special.)—Considerable stir has been made in Congress over the publication of the fact regarding the construction of cruisers on the lakes by the British government. Representatives of all lake cities and districts are urging the passage of a bill in the House authorizing the construction of a new war vessel by the United States on the lakes, and it is probable that this measure will be pushed through by reason of the publication calling attention to this matter.

In the meantime the Navy department will take such steps as will make it practicable to arm certain steel merchant vessels of modern type.

The fact that the Welland canal is being enlarged to admit the passage of small war vessels is being used as an argument in favor of the immediate passage in Congress of a bill authorizing a survey for a ship canal connecting the lakes and Atlantic by way of the Hudson river.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT GIVEN.

What Lieut. Carden Says of the Canadian "Revenue Cutters."

Washington, Dec. 24.—The full text of the reports of the Canadian lake question, which were briefly summarized in these dispatches two days ago, is now accessible. The question of mounting war ships on the great lakes in contravention of treaty stipulation has engaged the attention of this administration since the fall of 1891. In that year Lieut. Godfrey L. Carden, of the United States revenue marine service, was directed to investigate the subject. He made a quiet visit to Canada and last January submitted a report to Secretary Foster, of the Treasury department, giving the dimensions of the so-styled "new Canadian cruiser Constance," which was a revenue cutter in name, but in reality a war ship. This report was transmitted to Secretary Tracy, who, commenting on it in a letter to the secretary of the Treasury, says:

Revenue cutters would not appear to come within the limitations of the treaty of 1817, for the United States maintains four revenue steamers on the great lakes, varying in tonnage from 419 to 439 tons each, and each carrying two or three guns. The treaty provides that neither party shall maintain on the lakes a greater number of vessels than as follows: On Lake Ontario, one vessel not exceeding 100 tons, armed with one eighteen-pounder cannon; on the upper lakes, two vessels of the same description; on Lake Champlain, one vessel of the same description; and that no other vessel of war shall be built or armed on these lakes.

Use Rapid Fire Guns.

The Treasury department during the past summer and fall has kept fully advised of the continued activity of the Canadian authorities in building armed cutters on the lakes. Under date of December 9, 1892, Lieut. Carden, who spent much of his time in Canada collecting information on the subject, made a second report to the secretary of the Treasury. He finds that the hull designs of three vessels recently constructed or now on the docks, the Constance, Curlew and Petrel, allow "sufficient strength to permit of the mounting of 14-pounder rapid-fire Maxim-Nordenfeldt guns." The Nordenfeldt gun is the type of the gun, he says, which will enter into the armaments of these revenue cutters, and adds:

The gun positions permit of the placing of two guns, one on each bow for an almost direct ahead fire. A third gun position in the after portion of each ship gives an arc of fire from sharp on one bow, around the stern to sharp on the opposite bow. The rails and bulwarks will permit of the placing in broadside of small caliber rapid-fire and machine guns. The Nordenfeldt battery mentioned for the Petrel and her sisters is more than a match for the combined armament of the three United States revenue cutters on the lakes—the Perry, Johnson and Fessenden.

Patrol the Welland Canal.

Discussing the fighting quality of these vessels, Lieut. Carden says:

The hull dimensions of the Petrel, Constance and Curlew will enable them to maneuver with ease in the Welland canal, and in the event of any possible contingency maintain an effective patrol of that canal, at least for three or four days, until additional gunboats can break from the St. Lawrence river across Lake Ontario to the mouth of the Welland. Ordinary field batteries are not sufficient to stop these ships whereas the rapid fire guns of the new craft will be expected to keep hostile forces clear of the Welland locks until a sufficient number of British gunboats have entered Lake Erie to result of menacing the cities of the Northwest.

In concluding his report Lieut. Carden, speaking of the United States revenue cutters now on the lakes, says:

They must needs be replaced by craft having their vitals protected and be given rapid-fire batteries embracing at least one four-inch rifle for each ship, supplemented by six-pounder rapid-fire batteries. The present exposed condition of the machinery of the Johnson and Fessenden courts immediate destruction.

This report of Lieutenant Carden has occasioned much comment in the Treasury department as emphasizing the need for new revenue cutters of a modern type upon the lakes, capable of coping if need be, with those now being constructed by Canada.

New Cruisers for the Lakes.

The Treasury and Navy departments have joined forces in behalf of the bill providing for two new revenue cutters on the lakes. The Senate has passed the bill, but the House cheese-paring committee amended it and cut off one cutter. The bill will probably come up immediately after the holiday recess and the recent exposure of Canada's activity in building up a strong naval marine on the lakes, with a view to transforming it into a naval force in time of trouble between this country and Great Britain, will have the effect of inducing the House to disregard the amendment and pass the bill as it came from the Senate.

Should the bill pass it will enable this country to checkmate every move of England; for, according to the plans which have already been drawn, the cutters will be of steel and so built as to be armed as heavily, if not heavier, than the Canadian cutters. Moreover, they will be of a size to enable them to pass the Welland canal, and they will be able to carry enough coal for a 3,000 mile voyage. In short, the cutters will be so built as to be transformed without a day's delay into swift and well-equipped war vessels, able to cope with any which England can get through the canal or build upon the Canadian shores.

FREE For 30 Days. To introduce our CRAYON PORTRAITS we make this Special Offer: Send us a Cabinet Picture, Photograph or any picture of yourself or any member of your family, living or dead, and we will make you a CRAYON PORTRAIT FREE OF CHARGE, provided you exhibit it to your friends as a sample of our work and use your influence in securing us future orders. Place name and address on back of picture and it will be returned in perfect order. We make any change in picture you wish in coloring. Refer to any bank in Chicago. Address THE CRESCENT CRAYON CO., Opposite New German Theatre, CHICAGO, ILL. P. S.—We will forfeit $100 to any one sending us photo and not receiving crayon picture FREE as per this offer. This offer is bonafide.

WASHINGTON NEWS.

BLAINE VERY MUCH BETTER.

Physicians Omit the Regular Morning Call.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The improvement in Mr. Blaine's condition continues, and this morning it was said at his residence that "He is very much better." Mr. Blaine is now getting along so comfortably that Dr. Johnson, his physician, thinks there is no longer any occasion for himself and Dr. Hyatt to make early morning visits to see how the patient has passed the night.

To-day the doctors, for the first time since Sunday, omitted the call they have heretofore made at about 9 o'clock. Dr. Johnson said this morning that it was now unnecessary for him too see Mr. Blaine early each morning, and that he did not intend to visit him to-day until about 11 o'clock. The doctor usually attends to visitors at his office early in the morning, and unless another change for the worse occurs, he will not see Mr. Blaine until his usual hour for leaving the house. There is now a more cheerful air about the Blaine residence, and the members of the family occasionally leave the house to enjoy the frosty air and do a little shopping

MR. BLAINE'S VERSATILITY.

How Maine Democrats Were Once Outwitted.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—The gressman Boutelle, of Maine, is quoted in the Post, as telling the following story:

"Mr. Blaine is suffering from exhaustion. He has drawn upon his gray matter for years and years without any regard to his health or the possibility of impairing his vitality. His book, "Twenty Years in Congress," would be a monument in itself to any man, and yet it is only one of the great things Mr. Blaine has done. It was composed with a rapidity that stands unequalled in literary history, unless the novels of Sir Walter Scott be excepted.

"Mr. Blaine's versatility is wonderful. I remember in the administration of Governor Garcelon, when the Democrats were trying to wrest the state from us, and when Maine was in fever heat and civil war seemed impending, Mr. Blaine was the chairman of the state committee and had charge of the Republican fight. We had been endeavoring to get the governor to submit the questions at issue to the Supreme court, but had not succeeded. Mr. Blaine led the fighting, was aggressive and unyielding, and, of course, nothing that he could say would be listened to by the other side. Presently there appeared a letter to the governor, signed by Lot M. Morrill, who was known everywhere as a peace-loving, conservative Republican, asking the governor to lay before the Supreme court the questions at issue. The letter was mild in tone, frank and fair in its expressions, and adroitly put upon the other side the onus of refusing to submit to dispute to arbitration. Public sentiment at once changed, the governor was obliged to submit the matter, and the decision was in favor of the Republicans.

"For years Mr. Morrill received the praise of hundreds of men, not only in Maine, but throughout the United States for his wisdom and tact. Mr. Blaine wrote that letter, Mr. Morrill simply copied it and signed his name."

MORE CABINET SPECULATION.

Carlisle, of Kentucky, Offered the Treasury Portfolio.

New York, Dec. 23.—Here is another horoscope, cast by a Washington special:

"Mr. Cleveland has practically determined upon four members of his Cabinet. According to his recent intentions, the next secretary of State will be Edward J. Phelps, of Vermont; the secretary of the Treasury will be John G. Carlisle, of Kentucky; William R. Morrison, of Illinois, will preside over the Interior department, and J. Randolph Tucker, of Virginia, will be attorney general.

"This information comes direct from the President-elect. He has made a formal tender of only one position—that of secretary of the Treasury—but he has made up his mind that if the other gentlemen will accept the places he has assigned to them, he will have them as members of his official family.

"Morrison and Tucker, it is understood, will enter the Cabinet if Mr. Cleveland desires it, but there is some doubt in regard to the attitude of ex-Minister Phelps, who would be compelled to make considerable personal sacrifice in assuming even the highest office in the gift of the President.

"Two other appointments which Mr. Cleveland has in mind, although he has not yet fully determined upon them, are those of Patrick A. Collins for secretary of War, and ex-Governor Porter, of Tennessee, for one of the minor Cabinet positions. Mr. Porter was assistant secretary of State under the previous Cleveland administration, but resigned on account of a quarrel with Secretary Bayard."

CHILEAN INDEMNITY FUND.

Secretary Tracy Will Distribute it Justly.

Washington, Dec. 23.—A few days ago the State department turned over to the Navy department the $75,000 indemnity recently received from Chile, in settlement of the claims of members of the Baltimore's crew killed, injured and imprisoned in Valparaiso on Oct. 16, 1891. The Navy department is now considering means by which this indemnity can be most justly distributed among claimants.

There are no less than thirty persons interested. The families of Riggin, who was killed, and Trumbull, who subsequently died from wounds, will receive a generous part of the indemnity. Six men were seriously wounded during the attack, and they will also receive a portion of the amount. Something over twenty men were more or less injured, or were wrongfully imprisoned and the claims of these men will receive due consideration by the department. It is not unlikely that Secretary Tracy will convene a board of naval officers to determine how and to whom the money shall be paid, this being the usual method pursued by the department in cases involving distribution of money, and as the testimony of the Baltimore's crew upon the return of that vessel to San Francisco is complete, such a board could readily arrive at just conclusions in the matter.

ANTI-OPTION BILL WILL PASS.

Senator Washburn Says the People Want It.

New York, Dec. 24.—"The anti-option bill will pass the Senate soon after the holidays by a vote of two to one," said Senator Wm. D. Washburn, of Minnesota, at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. "It will also pass the House," he added, "by a large majority.

"The people desire the bill to become a law. At least 99-100 of the farmers and nine-tenths of the business men desire its passage. The Senate? I can't tell whether it will be Republican or Democratic until the legislatures in the West act."

SECRETARY OF STATE FOSTER

Will Tender His Resignation Before Leaving for Paris.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Secretary of State Foster will resign his portfolio before leaving for Paris, where he goes to act as agent for the United States before the Bering Sea arbitrators, who are to meet February 23.

As only three weeks will elapse between the date of the secretary's departure and the end of the present administration, the vacancy will not be filled. Assistant Secretary Wharton will act during the interim.

The Union Iron Works, of San Francisco, may secure the contract for building the two new war ships.

CONFEDERATE WAR CLAIMS.

The South Will Now Push Them Forward.

Washington, Dec. 24.—During the recent political campaign the people were informed that 1,000 Confederate war claims were favorably reported upon the private calendar of the House of Representatives, to the exclusion of all pension bills and claims of loyal people. Ample warning was given to the people that the transfer of government control to the Democratic party would result in the payment of those war claims. On the 4th of next March the Democratic party will probably have absolute control of the legislative and executive branches of the government. It is now the declared intention of the committee on war claims to favorably report all of these bills early in the first session of the Fifty-third Congress. It is the further intention of the Democrats to attack existing pension laws and reduce the expenditures for payment of pensions to Union soldiers. An ex-Confederate member of the committee on war claims, in conversation with a personal friend to-day, said:

"The Yankees have been running the machine long enough. The people have been robbed to pay pensions to indigent survivors of the armies which whipped us. We propose to save millions by cutting off every name possible now on the pension roll. We will grant no more pensions than circumstances compel through the pension office. We will not permit a single private pension bill to become a law by Congress. Our people in the South, who lost large sums of money by the depredations of Yankee soldiers, shall be reimbursed. It is time that the tables were turned, and the people have decided that we are right by their votes. Instead of being taxed to pay pensions to Yankee soldiers, we will divert that money and pour it into the South, with the result that our section will prosper hereafter, and the manufacturers of New England may learn to take care of themselves without the fostering aid of the general government. We are in the saddle now, and we propose to stay there until we override all the wrongs which we have suffered at the hands of the Northerners."

CONTEMPLATED LEGISLATION

The Sherman Law Will Likely be Repealed.

Washington, Dec. 24.—There is to be an organized effort in the House after the holiday recess to bring about some sort of financial legislation. It will probably take the shape of an attempt to repeal the Sherman law, under which the government is purchasing 54,000,000 ounces of silver a year. The opponents of free coinage believe that this law is daily menacing the securities of the government and inevitably leading to gigantic losses. Mr. Harter, of Ohio, one of the most pronounced champions of the repeal of this law, will make it his special business during the recess to endeavor to mold the public and congressional sentiments so that favorable action may be taken as soon after recess as possible. For this reason he will not return to Ohio to enjoy the holiday festivities, but will be found at various places throughout the East, where he may be most useful in promoting the repeal of the law. On the other hand, the friends of silver are not less active, and expect to see a free coinage bill forging to the front before many days of the new year have passed. Mr. Stewart said, only the other day, that he expected a free coinage bill would soon be called up for a vote. His amendment to the bill of Mr. Hill, which provides for the repeal of the Sherman act, makes that measure practically a free coinage bill, and Mr. Stewart thinks that when it comes to a vote it will pass.

BEHIND ANTE-HOLIDAY RECORD.

Congress Not Up In Its Work—The Army Bill.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The present session of the 52nd congress is not quite up to the ante-holiday record of the short session of the 51st congress. The House has so far passed the army bill and reported only the fortifications bill. When the holiday recess of the 51st congress was taken the army and navy bills had been reported and the fortification and pension bills had been reported and passed, besides a small deficiency bill carrying with it an appropriation of almost half a million dollars.

Immediately upon the assembling of the Senate after the recess the army bill will be reported and called up at an early day. The total amount of this bill as it passed the House was $24,107,039, with an estimate of $25,922,955. The bill as it passed the House was $1,725,315 less than the estimate and $110,860 less than the appropriation of last year. The bill, as soon as it came over from the House was sent to the secretary of War and the action of the Senate in making increases will depend upon the report made to the committee by the War department.

SECRETARY FOSTER'S PLAN.

Other Currency to Be Disbursed for Gold at Any Point.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Secretary Charles Foster makes no secret of his purpose of repairing, so far as possible, within legitimate bounds, the serious inroads on government gold holdings resulting from the recent heavy shipments of that metal to European countries. To that end he has renewed the policy so successfully employed by him at earlier periods of his administration, when the gold balance of the Treasury was similarly menaced by foreign influences.

This policy, in brief, is to disburse currency of any character and denomination desired at any point in the United States, where it may be needed in exchange for gold deposited in any subtreasury, except that at San Francisco.

ADJOURNED TO JANUARY 4.

Congress Will Go Home for the Holidays.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Immediately after the reading and approval of the journal in the house to-day, Mr. McMillan (Dem. Tennessee) moved an adjournment. This was defeated, 142 to 48. The committees were called for reports, but without important results, and there was evidently no quorum present. The House at 12:15 adjourned until January 4, 1893.

Appointed by the President.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The President sent to the Senate to-day the following nominations:

State—Frederick J. Grant, of Washington to be envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States to Bolivia.

Archibald C. Coolidge, of Massachusetts, secretary of legation of the United States at Vienna.

George Creighton Webb, of New York, secretary of legation of the United States at St. Petersburg.

Joseph R. Herod, of Indiana, second secretary of the legation of the United States to Japan.

To be consuls of the United States: Nicholas Senn, of New York, at Liege; Ferdinand C. Gottschalk, of California, at Stuttgart; Charles W. Dow, of Massachusetts, at Zanzibar; Thomas Herran, a citizen of Colombia, at Medellin..

Capital Brevities.

Raft towing on the lakes is to be investigated by Congress.

Senator Cullom has introduced two bills that are intended to strengthen the Interstate Commerce law.

The money received from Chile as indemnity, will soon be distributed among the people entitled to it.

The story that President Harrison will become a member of the faculty of Leland Stanford university, has been partially confirmed.

Vice President-elect Stevenson will make his headquarters at the Ebbitt house during the few days which he will be in Washington previous to the inauguration.

There is little reason to doubt that the President will soon issue an order extending the civil service law and rules so as to include all letter carriers and clerks in free delivery postoffices.

Bids were opened at the Navy department for the construction of an iron and steel pier at the United States coaling station in the harbor of Pago Pago, Samoa. The two lowest bids were: Coronado Foundry Co., of San Diego, Cal., $84,657; San Francisco Bridge Co., $88,900.

The offer of Mine Superintendent Allen, of Butte, Montana, to coin a silver dollar of more intrinsic value than the standard dollar issued by the government at the rate of 90 cents apiece, will receive no consideration at the Treasury department, for the simple reason that there is no legal authority for the acceptance of such an offer, even if it were regarded as advantageous.

ONE ENJOYS

Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.

Syrup of Figs is for sale in 50c and $1 bottles by all leading druggists. Any reliable druggist who may not have it on hand will procure it promptly for any one who wishes to try it. Do not accept any substitute.

CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
LOUISVILLE, KY. NEW YORK, N.Y.

NO TROUBLE IS ANTICIPATED.

Secretary Charles Foster Sanguine Over the Situation.

New York, Dec. 27.—Secretary of the Treasury Charles Foster, left for his home at Fostoria, Ohio, last evening. Before going he said to a reporter that he had had no conference with bankers here in reference to the export of gold and the conditions of the treasury. When asked if there was any danger of a panic, he said: "None at all. There is no occasion for excitement or alarm in banking circles."

"Do you expect to be called upon to issue any bonds to get gold for the treasury between now and March 3?"

"No, I do not think it will be necessary. In the three weeks during which $12,000,000 have been sent abroad, all of which was taken from the treasury, I have the offset of $8,000,000 accumulation. The gold in the treasury when the big shipments began amounted to $125,000,000. To-day it amounts to $121,000,000. While I have not made any promises to get any more gold in the treasury on March 4, I believe that the shipments of gold to Europe will be lighter during the next two months, and that it is within the possibilities of the situation to leave $125,000,000 for my successor to control.

"While I shall not utilize the provisions of the resumption act of 1875, which went into effect on January 1, 1879, there is no doubt among the legal counsellors of the government that the secretary of the Treasury is empowered under this law to sell coin bonds to secure gold whenever it becomes necessary to maintain resumption. The maintenance of the credit of the government has always thought best subserved by paying bonds in gold, and that will undoubtedly continue the custom."

Fertile Land Given Up.

San Francisco, Dec. 22.—Private advices from London state authoritatively that the English syndicate, of which Sir Edward Jenkinson, K. C. B., is president, called the Mexican Land & Colonization company, has decided to abandon its vast enterprises in Lower California, allowing a concession of 18,000,000 acres of fertile land to lapse to the Mexican government.

Leaving Oklahoma.

Denison, Tex., Dec. 22.—Quite a large number of colored people have arrived here from Oklahoma. They are destitute and starved out. They say that Oklahoma is no place for colored people who have no money to make a crop, and the best lands have been absorbed by the whites.

FOREIGN NEWS.

THE TROUBLE IN FRANCE.

An Undercurrent Which Bodes No Good to the Republic.

London, Dec. 21.—The Chronicle's Paris correspondent says: "It is probable that this is only the first batch of incriminated politicians to be prosecuted.

"Much compassion for Deputy Arene was displayed by his colleagues in the chamber. Many a friendly hand grasped his as he left the tribune, in a way that is not common in French life when a man is down.

"M. Rouvier, on the contrary, failed to convince the chamber of his innocence. Excepting weak plaudits from the center, his defense was received with icy silence, and it was evident that he had fallen, never to rise again.

"M. Proust declares that he will blow his brains out rather than go to prison.

"The air to-night breathes royalist intrigue. There are all the outward aspects of a revolutionary era.

"The Saint Pelagie prison, where Editor Drumont is confined, may be described as an editorial office. The absurdity of allowing him to issue every day columns of fresh accusations, leads to the supposition that the government is anxious to keep him away from certain individuals who are reluctant to

PRESIDENT CARNOT.

compromise themselves by visiting him in prison, but who undoubtedly stand behind La Libre Parole in its present course.

The Paris correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: "Both M. Rouvier's and M. Arene's utterances were difficult. They gasped and choked. Despite Rouvier's defiant and violent speech, his voice had an unnatural ring.

"M. Andrieux denies that he is the possessor of important papers which came into his hands while he was prefect of police, but he says that as he has an excellent memory he could recall perfectly the contents of the papers which he saw."

The Paris correspondent of the Daily News says: "M. Andrieux brought the photographs and counterfoils of the Thierree checks from London, whither he went to see M. Herz. It may be presumed also that he saw M. Rochefort. Andrieux is also in close touch with the Montpensier party in Spain, and the Comtesse De Paris set.

"Thierree explains his deposition that the counterfoils had been destroyed by saying that he thought himself bound by professional honor to keep them secret. Besides the names the counterfoils are annotated in Baron De Reinach's handwriting.

"In the chamber to-day nobody asked for an adjournment on the question of the prosecution. All were afraid of seeming anxious to shelter friends. The Republican opportunists seemed worried; the deputies on the right appalled and crestfallen.

"Rochefort was clearly right when he said that the bomb prepared in the royalist camp, was not intended to burst until the eve of election. At the moment of adjournment the chamber looked crushed. Not a single group seemed to be victor."

Minister Loubet says that the prosecutions announced and to come are absolutely necessary to purge the republic. Some of the accused might clear themselves, but the others must be expelled from the parliament they have dishonored. Those who criticise the government for severity should await developments. Arrangements for some of the duels growing out of the recent events in the chamber have been completed.

M. Sadi Carnot, President of France, is the son of the famous Carnot, of the early part of the century, who was writer, diplomat and civil engineer. Carnot was elected to the presidency five years ago, succeeding Jules Grevy, who was forced to resign by reason of the wrong-doings of his son-in-law. His term of office does not expire until December 4, 1894, when the chamber of Deputies and the Senate meet in joint session to elect a new President for the term of seven years.

He is a brilliant orator, and is famed in France, as is Lord Dufferin in England, for the great bringing together of diverso and hostile elements. His speech in 1889, at the occasion of the Paris Exposition was the crowning effort of his policy of reconciliation and reorganization, and his tour through the provinces last year strengthened the republic to a marked degree. He has so improved domestic politics in France that that country has become a more dangerous and formidable one to attack particularly with the powerful statesmen that he has put at the helm.

That Duel.

Paris, Dec. 22.—The duel between Clemenceau and De Roulede took place as arranged. Neither was hurt.

Paris, Dec. 23.—A conference between M. Ribot, the prime minister; M. Bourgoise, minister of justice, and M. Loubet, minister of the interior, was held this morning, with the result that orders were issued to the police to make more arrests of persons implicated in the Panama scandal.

M. GEORGES CLEMENCEAU.

It is expected that in consequence of the statements made before the Panama investigating committee yesterday by M. Deniss, he will be advised to resign his position in the chamber.

Figaro says to-day that before M. Clemenceau and De Roulede fought their duel yesterday, the latter directed his seconds to inform M. Clemenceau that if he (De Roulede) did not lose his life in the duel, he would continue to attack him in parliament. The paper adds that M. De Roulede refused to shake hands with his opponent.

SENATOR ALBERT GREVY.

To Overthrow the Republic.

The ministry have evidence, it is reported, that the present attack on the government is part of an organized plan for the overthrow of the republic, and that each step taken is carefully discussed in advance by the plotters against the constitution.

The ministers are also convinced that the only way to meet the crisis is to throw the whole of the Panama scandal, as rapidly as the facts are developed, open before the public, and to maintain only such reserve as may be necessary for the proper management of judicial prosecutions. President Carnot has not exactly said: "Let no guilty man escape," but he has substantially declared that no guilty man shall be shielded from justice by any act on the part of the government.

Confidence in the Government.

Paris, Dec. 23.—The Chamber of Deputies has just voted confidence in the government by a large majority.

PRESIDENT CARNOT WILL NIP

Conspiracy in the Bud The Government is Encouraged.

Paris, Dec. 24.—The statement in these dispatches Friday afternoon that the ministry have evidence that the present attack on the government is part of an organized plan for the overthrow of the republic, and that each step taken is carefully discussed in advance by the plotters against the constitution, is fully confirmed, and the evidence has arrived at that stage that the government is prepared to arrest certain of the conspirators against whom there is sufficient evidence.

M. Andrieux is regarded as the manager of the plot against the republic, and the first blow is to be struck at him. When warned that he would be arrested to-day M. Andrieux replied: "I have nothing to fear. If I am arrested it will be to save M. Floquet from disgrace and punishment. The government is seeking for clues to prove the existence of a Boulangist and royalist plot, and desires to make out that I am implicated in it. It seems to me that the real plot is altogether of another character. I have taken precautions so that if I go to the government Quiblette (dungeon) the public will know the real motives for my arrest."

The precautions that Andrieux has taken are, it is said, the deposit with trustworthy parties in London of duplicates of all the documentary evidence which he has collected against prominent republicans. This fact, however, will not affect the action of the government in the slightest degree.

M. Ribot's ministry is prepared, on the one hand, to carry on to its legitimate result, a thorough prosecution of all connected criminally with the Panama scandal, and not shielded by the lapse of time since the offenses were committed, and on the other hand to ferret out and bring to punishment all who may be shown to be engaged in treasonable conspiracy against the republic.

The government has been greatly encouraged by the emphatic vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies, and will therefore take action more promptly than was known to have been intended Friday afternoon, when it was announced in these dispatches that "It is also suggested, on usually well informed authority that the ministry will have some revelations to make in regard to the course of the enemies of the republic that will divert attention in some degree from the Panama scandal."

The Siecle states to-day that the government holds proof of a Boulangist conspiracy to effect a revolution, involving the same plotters as conspired for the destruction of the republic in 1888.

From other sources it is learned that even more vigorous measures will be taken now than in 1888 and that President Carnot and his ministers will show the same vigor in putting down anarchist raids in the early part of the year. The victory of the government in the Chamber of Deputies has spread gloom and consternation among the enemies of the republic, and they are much less aggressive in their utterances to-day than yesterday.

The threat of prosecution, too, is having its effect and expressions of avowed and open disloyalty to the republicans are very infrequent. Whether the alleged plotters have given up their schemes or not they give less public evidence of their aims.

AMOUNT OF MONEY SPENT

In the Great French Panama Canal Scheme.

Paris, Dec. 21.—According to the statements issued by the liquidators, the amount expended by the Panama Canal company racked the enormous total of $260,000,000. M. Achille Monchycourt, the last liquidator, placed under the following heads the sums expended:

Preparatory work and organization, $35,000,000.

Concession and general expenses, $12,800,000.

Advertisements, taxes, etc., $17,000,000.

Construction, material and transport, $33,200,000.

Contractors, $88,600,000.

Purchase of Panama railroad, $18,600,000.

Paid to shareholders as interim interest, and invested for payment of lottery bonds, $54,200,000.

According to this account, not the whole of the $260,000,000 has been lost. One-fifth of this sum has been repaid to the subscribers in the shape of interim interest. Then there are assets represented by the fourth, fifth and sixth items. These cost a little over $140,000,000, and their present value is estimated at about $14,000,000. The other three items, amounting to a little over $65,000,000, are a total loss. Of the whole amount expended only a little over one-third, was spent in the actual construction of the canal.

ROASTING THE FREE MASONS.

Leo XIII Has Not Much Use for That Society.

Rome, Dec. 24.—All the cardinals at present in Rome waited upon the pope and tendered him the usual Christmas congratulations. In reply to the good wishes for the church and himself, his holiness said that the signs of a gathering storm were visible on all observers of moral and religious conditions. The European situation was pregnant with ruin and disaster, and this condition could only be brought to an end by the healing virtues of the church, which herself was being violently assailed.

In the course of his remarks, the pope referred to the Free Masons, whom he condemned as a malignant sect, who were never true to the people, but who were supported by the government. His holiness concluded by bestowing the apostolic blessing upon the whole world.

CHOLERA ON THE INCREASE.

People Fleeing from Infested Polish Districts.

Vienna, Dec. 23.—The cholera is increasing in the province of Lublin, in Russian Poland, and adjoining the Austrian border. The consternation caused by the ravages of the cholera last autumn in that region had become allayed, but is again being aroused, and many of the people are fleeing from the cholera-stricken districts. The fugitives are stopped at the Austrian frontier, if not by the sentinels, but there is no doubt that many of them escape into Galicia and Austria proper.

The authorities on both sides of the border are doing all they can to prevent a panic, with the scenes of inhumanity which accompanied the panic in the autumn. The report that emigration to America is imminent has caused much disappointment, as, owing to dread of cholera and for other reasons, multitudes were preparing to emigrate during the coming spring.

ARMED MEN ON THE BORDER.

Large Body Moving in the Direction Linares.

St. Louis, Dec. 24.—A special from San Miguel, Mex., says considerable excitement was created among the federal troops stationed here, and the population of this place, over the report which was brought in last night by a courier, that several hundred well armed and equipped men had been seen marching 15 miles West of Old Fernando De Pasa, a small town at the foot of the mountains in the state of Tamaulipas. They were moving in the direction of Linares, on the line of the Monterey and Mexican Gulf railroad, about 40 miles distant.

It is believed that the armed force is a band of smugglers or brigands and that they have no connection with the federal government. A detachment of Mexican troops has been sent to pursue the outlaws. The authorities at Linares have also been notified, and if the marauders should attack that town they will meet with a warm reception.

CHILE IS NOW QUITE DECENT.

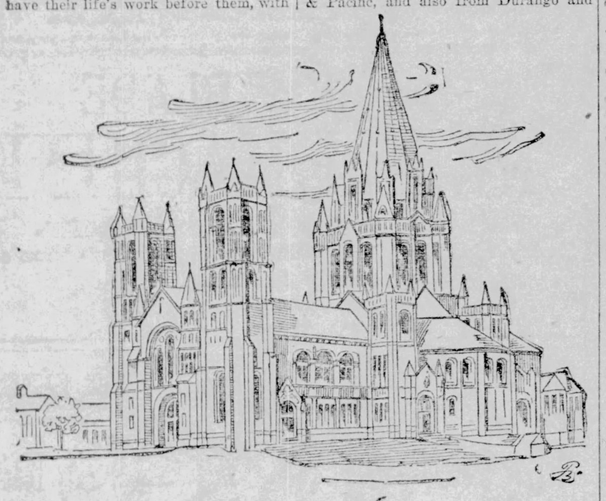
**American Sailors Graciously Ent

GRAND CATHEDRAL

To Be Built by the Congregation of St. John the Divine—Compared With Other Great Cathedrals of the World.

New York, Dec. 27.—The great event in church circles here to-day will be the laying of the corner stone of the great cathedral of St. John the Divine, by Rt. Rev. Henry Codman Potter, D. D., bishop of New York. The event is important not only in an ecclesiastical sense, but also in a civic sense. Bishop Potter will himself officiate, and the orator of the day will be Bishop Doane, of Albany. The most distinguished people of the city will be present, and every care will be taken for the dignity of the occasion and the comfort of those attending.

The structure of the proposed cathedral is from the design of Messrs. Heins & La Farge, and when completed will doubtless cost somewhere about $9,000,000. The design, which is Romanesque and of most august proportions, calls for a structure which will take precedence of all ecclesiastical buildings on the American continent, and will be the work of a lifetime to bring to completion. It was wise to give the enterprise into the hands of young men, and Heins and La Farge are both that. They have their life's work before them, with



The Cathedral

all its cares, its trials, its embarrassments, let us hope also its splendid reward, when with silvered hair they can see the golden beams of the setting sun gliding the sevenfold towers of their finished work.

Magnificent Towers.

This sevenfold arrangement of magnificent towers is the leading feature of the great design. The whole building will be cruciform, with an apsidal sanctuary, surrounded by seven chapels. At the corners of the central portion of the cross plan are four flanking towers, and over this central space rises the great central tower and spire to the dizzy height of 445 feet. The four flanking towers clustering around the great

Rt. Rev. Henry C. Potter, D.D.

central tower are each 158 feet high. At each side of the great west front are two additional towers rising to the height of 248 feet each. The great western gable will be 164 feet, and the porch alone will be as large as the treet front of the sCathedral of SS. Peter and Paul on Washington boulevard, Chicago.

From the floor of the church to the inner vaulting of the majestic dome-like central tower will be 253 feet. Standing at this point the eye can take in the majestic sweep of the whole building, which will be 520 feet long, and 290 feet broad between the transepts. The choir alone will be 154 feet long. This portion it is proposed first to erect. It will be a building in itself of no mean dignity, and be well worth a visit. If all goes well it will be ready for occupancy on St. John Evangelist's day, in the year 1895.

Compared With Other Churches.

The new edifice will bear favorable comparison with the greatest in the world.

St. Paul's, London, to the top of the gilded cross above its dome, measures 360 feet. St. Peter's, at Rome, stretches beyond this, and is 448 feet high. The glorious Gothic cathedral at Cologne, wit hits twin

Rev. Eugene A. Hoffman

spires, reaches the height of 510 feet. The proposed cathedral of New York will be 445 feet high, and when one considers the added height of 100 feet, secured by the cliff-like elevation on which it stands, it will be the greatest in effect of all ecclesiastical buildings yet erected.

From what could learn of the detail of future ornament, all of which yet is undetermined, but sufficiently in view to give an idea, the interior of the edifice will be a mass of glowing color and resplendent forms in glass, in mosaic, in bronze, and in sculpture. From the colossal lantern will flow down a flood of glorious light, which will gleam upon stately pillar, rounded arch, and curving cloisters. It will be a realization in this Western land, but on a more gigantic scale, of that matchless structure in Sicily which we speak of as Mon Reale; the same great simplicity of plan, the same august high altar, the same grand use of mosaic and color, and the same deeply religious feeling.

Several large contributions have been made to the cathedral fund, some to be made public after New Year's day. It is generally understood that the sum already on hand amounts to near $1,000,000.

GEN. FRED. T. DENT DEAD.

Gen. Grant's Brother-in-Law Passes Away at Denver.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 26.—Gen. Frederick T. Dent, the distinguished Union soldier and brother-in-law of U. S. Grant, is dead. He was 72 years old. He will be interred in the military cemetery at Fort Leavenworth, Kas.

Gen. Dent has been in Denver for the past four years enjoying a peaceful old age, after a career of energy and movement. He was born in Missouri in 1820, and received an appointment to West Point from that state and served with honor in the Mexican and civil wars.

SOUTHERN UTAH GOLD FIELDS.

Wonderful Excitement Over the New Eldorado.

Denver, Col., Dec. 24.—The greatest gold fever that has stricken Colorado since the Ruby and California gulch diggings drew thousands of miners into those camps, has now taken complete possession of the West. Here, as well as in every camp in Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona, there is nothing talked of except the new placer fields of the San Juan river, in Southern Utah. At Durango Rico and Dolores, this state, many outfits have already started for the new fields, and by Saturday it is estimated that three hundred miners will have left these three points for the Eldorado.

Mining men in almost every town are clubbing together and offering big inducements to professional prospectors to visit the mines. At Albuquerque, New Mexico, and other points along the line of the Atlantic and Pacific the excitement is intense, and railway officials and clerks have thrown up their positions and headed the great army of gold hunters. The fact that of the many who have already gone into this country none have returned is strong evidence that the sand is rich enough to keep them there.

New stage lines have been established from Albuquerque, Farmington and Winslow along the line of the Atlantic & Pacific, and also from Durango and Dolores, Colo., on the line of the Denver & Rio Grande. The gold fields are probably most accessible by way of the latter points, which are only 90 miles from them, and 100 shorter than other routes. The stage runs by way of Bluff City, Utah, which is now the nearest settlement.

IDAHO'S NEW DIAMOND FIELD.

An Expert Sent For from the East to Investigate.

Boise City, Idaho, Dec. 24.—Interest in the diamond discovery does not abate. There is still much skepticism about the matter and many reasons for being cautious still exists. There is much very good evidence that the stones found are real diamonds, also much evidence that they exist in large quantities, but so many discrepancies appear in various stories told, that cautious people are inclined to reserve judgment.

In a very short time the existing doubt will be removed one way or the other for many parties are visiting the fields and stones are being sent away for examination by persons who have no object in deceiving any one. A Boise City real estate firm have bought an expert from the East to make an examination and he left for the fields to-day. Several parties have gone to Boise, this being the best outfitting point and being as near the fields as any other place.

THE TREASURY DRAFTS MISSING

World's Fair Coins are Still Locked Up.

Chicago, Dec. 27. The treasury drafts for the second consignment of 650,000 coins for Chicago and 30,000 for New York and Philadelphia are missing. They were mailed last Thursday from Washington, addressed to H. N. Higinbotham, President of the World's Columbian Exposition, but from that time to this nothing has been seen of the drafts. World's Fair officials were much worried over the delay yesterday, and it began to be feared that the drafts had been lost or stolen in the mails.

The coins at Chicago, Philadelphia and New York are as effectively locked up in the United States sub treasury until the drafts can be produced as if the silver were still in the Rocky mountain mines.

"If the drafts are not here by Tuesday morning," said President Higinbotham, "there will be some lively telegraphing between Chicago and Washington. We have not telegraphed to-day, because officials would not be at their places, and could do nothing until their offices are opened Tuesday. I can not explain the delay in the drafts. One day's delay might be accounted for by late trains, but when it takes a letter from Thursday until Monday to reach here from Washington, I fear something is wrong with it."

LINE OF ACTION LAID DOWN.

People's Party in Kansas Begins the Fight.

Topeka, Kas., Dec. 24.—The suits against the five Republican members elect of the lower house of the legislature, mentioned in these dispatches recently, were brought by the Populists in the Supreme court in the shape of mandamus proceedings. The court yesterday passed upon only one case, that from Haskell county, where Stubbs, Republican, was given the certificate of election by mistake, the figures showing the election of Rosenthal, Populist.

The court ordered the canvassing board to reconvene and rectify the error, or to show cause, January 3, why it does not obey the court's mandate. The other four cases will probably be passed upon to-day.

The Populists have determined to bring other suits against the five Republican postmasters who were elected to the lower house.

The basis of the suit is that provision in the state constitution which forbids the election to more than one public office of one man. The Republicans hope to meet these suits by inducing the five members-elect to resign their Federal positons.

JERRY SIMPSON FOR SENATOR.

Rumored That He Has Formed an Alliance With Democrats.

Washington, Dec. 27.—(Special.)—Reports from Kansas that Jerry Simpson has announced himself a candidate for the Senate, creates quite a stir here owing to the fact that he was in consultation with the Democratic steering committee of the Senate before his departure. It is believed that this announcement is a part of the plan of the Democrats to control the Senate, and it is not improbable they may succeed.

A combination of the Populists and Democratic members could control the Kansas legislature, and there is some reason to believe Simpson has given the Democrats assurances that he will cooperate with them in the Senate if they will help elect him. He not only cooperated with the Democrats in the House, but has repeatedly declared since his election that the mission of the third party is at an end.

PEASANTS DYING LIKE FLIES.

Awful Destitution in the Russian Famine District.

London, Dec. 27.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Standard says: "A British consul who has visited the famine districts of Kieff, Bessarabia, Khartoff, Koursk, Razan, Orel, Tula and Voronesh, reports that the peasants are dying like flies from hunger and disease. There are no signs of relief from the horrors of a hard winter.

"In Sebastopol he learned from a trusty source that cholera is raging on the Circassian shore. Hundreds of deaths have been reported in the last fortnight."

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Pure
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A cream of tartar baking powder. Highest of all in leavening strength.—*Latest United States Government Food Report.*

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OPENING OF THE BIG FAIR.

Programme Finally Arranged and Given to the Public.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—The programme for the opening of the Exposition next May has been completed by the committee having the matter in charge. Grover Cleveland, who will be President of the United States when the Fair is opened, is to deliver the only address, and start the machinery. No other orator will be heard. A poem, perhaps, by Oliver Wendell Holmes, and some music will precede Mr. Cleveland's address. After the wheels are buzzing and the crowds are rushing through the buildings it is proposed that President Cleveland and his party shall drive through the grounds and pay their respects to foreign commissioners to the Fair, who will be waiting in the official headquarters to receive the Presidential party. Later in the evening Mr. Cleveland's carriage will stop in front of Festival Hall, and there the President will hold a public reception for two hours from 4 to 6. The public will not have an opportunity to attend the exercises of formally inaugurating the great Exposition. Festival Hall seats but 5,000 persons. One thousand tickets will be reserved for officials of the Fair, members of Congress, and others. The remaining 4,000 seats will be sold at $5 each, tickets being issued on invitation.

This is the programme decided upon: Music, arranged by Theodore Thomas; prayer, music, presentation of chiefs of departments by the director-general, poem, music, address and opening of the World's Columbian Exposition by the President of the United States, benediction.

It is recommended that the exercises begin at 10 o'clock on May 1, and close at noon or earlier. From noon to 1:30 o'clock lunch will be served President Cleveland and 12,000 special guests. Those who have been chosen to attend the inaugural exercises are: The President, Vice President and Cabinet, the Supreme court, the diplomatic corps, the United States Senators, members of Congress, World's Fair directors, national commissioners, lady managers, foreign commissioners, World's Fair officials, and the Chicago aldermen. A number of distinguished citizens will be added to the list.

WILL REPEAL THE MINER LAW

And Unseat the Democratic Presidential Electors.

Detroit, Dec. 23.—It would appear that Cleveland is not to receive these five electoral votes from Michigan and that Chairman Campau is to lose the only remaining scrap of evidence that the Democratic state central committee attempted to conduct a campaign in Michigan last fall.

Senator-elect Weiss some weeks ago announced that he would introduce a bill to repeal the Miner election law, which provides for the election of Presidential electors by districts. Fred A. Baker, the attorney, who with Col. H. M. Duffield, argued before the Supreme court of the state and also before the Supreme court of the United States against the validity of the law, proposes to go further.

Mr. Baker has carefully analyzed the opinion of the United States Supreme court sustaining the law, and the result has been that he has prepared a bill, which is to be introduced by Senator Weiss as soon as the legislature meets, the object of which is the unseating of the five Democratic Presidential electors who have been officially declared chosen.

The districts are the Eastern districts at large, and the First, Second, Seventh and Tenth Congressional districts. The plan is to have the legislature name all the electors. They would, of course, be Republicans. It will not make any difference in the general result, but if the legal point detected by Mr. Baker is sustained it will have a far reaching effect and may necessitate some national legislation on the subject.

HOLIDAY CONFERENCE BEGINS.

Industrial Legion to be Organized at This Meeting.

Indianapolis, Dec. 27.—Yesterday and this morning the Populist leaders have been arriving to attend the holiday conference, which is in progress to-day, and which will continue through to-morrow. The original purpose of the conference was the organization of the Industrial Legion in this state, and to take steps for pushing the organization in other states. The Industrial Legion was conceived by Paul Vandervoort, of Opaha, his intention being that it should hold the same relation to the Populist party that the Lincoln League club does to the Republican party.

Afterward it was decided to give the meeting a wider scope, and in response to letters sent out by Chairman Taubeneck, about fifty Populists are here, representing probably half that number of states. Chairman Taubeneck and Paul Vandervoort are both here. Both are members of the executive committee of the Industrial Legion. The committee has authority to amend the constitution, and it was engaged this morning in considering certain changes to meet the views of Vandervoort.

HEIRESS FOUND IN INDIANA.

A Staunton Lady Falls Into a Nice Legacy.

Brazil, Ind., Dec. 27.—About ten days ago Marks Meyers, an attorney of Albany, N. Y., sent a letter to the postmaster of this city asking for information regarding Minnie Cooper, the last descendant of the Cooper family, who was heir to an estate valued at between $50,000 and $75,000.

The letter was published, and Mrs. Sam McCoskey, of Staunton, upon seeing the notice, stated that she was the missing heir. She came to this city when she was two years old. Shortly after her mother died, and she was adopted by Samuel Weaver, with whom she lived until she was 17 years old, when she married McCoskey, a miner of Staunton. She wrote immediately to Albany, and has received a reply that gave her assurance that she was the heir desired.

DR. M'GLYNN IS REINSTATED.

Mgr. Satolli Acts in the Case of the New York Priest.

New York, Dec. 24.—The following statement in regard to the case of Dr. McGlynn was made last night by order of Mgr. Satolli: "To end the many contradictory telegrams sent out it is thought expedient to state that Dr. McGlynn was declared free from ecclesiastical censures and restored to the exercise of his priestly functions after having satisfied the pope's legate on all the points in his case."

The effect of the decision by Mgr. Satolli is limited. It enables Father McGlynn to serve as priest in any parish to which he may be assigned. A return to his old fold at St. Stephen's is a subject for further consideration, and must be settled, the authorities here say, by Archbishop Corrigan, of New York.

The Monterey's Test.

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—The managers of the Union Iron works have concluded to give the new coast defense vessel, Monterey, another preliminary run until to-morrow. Th trial yesterday was regarded as highly satisfactory both by the contractors and the naval representatives who were present.

YAQUI ARISING.

Mexican Troops Defeated—It Will Require 200,000 Soldiers to Bring the Tribe Into Submission.

Chihuahua, Mex., Dec. 27.—A government military courier brought the news last evening of another outrage in the state of Sonora, of which the warring Yaqui Indians are the perpetrators.

The trouble occurred in the town of Belau, at the foot of one of the ranges in the Sierra Marie mountains near the mouth of the Yaqui river. The town of Belen is settled principally with Yaquis and their allies, the Maya Indians. It is within what is claimed by the Yaquis as their domain, and all efforts of the Mexican government to colonize the rich lands of the valley have proved futile. By an arrangement with the Indians a few Spanish traders took up their residence in Belen a few years ago, and have been carrying on a profitable business.

Shortly after the terrible massacre of the Tomochie Indians by the Mexican troops in the western part of the state of Chihuahua about two months ago, the Mexican government considered that it was now good time in which to bring the troublesome Yaqui Indians into submission and compel the heavy land owners of the Yaqui river to pay into the general treasury the taxes which the government had never been able to collect.

Detachments of government troops accompanied several tax agents to different parts of the Yaqui country boundary, but no successful entrance was made until about ten days ago, when a force of soldiers sailed up the Yaqui river and made a landing near Belen. When the Indians of that town heard the coming of the troops they prepared for a desperate resistance. The Yaquis and Mayas marched out and attacked the government troops and were compelled to retreat to their boats and leave the country.

The Indians of the town then went on the warpath in earnest and immediately drove the Spanish traders out and their families, burning their residences and other property. It is generally conceded in military circles here that the government will be unable to force the Yaqui Indians into subjection. It will take 200,000 Mexican trops to bring the 25,000 Yaquis under control.

PROPOSED CANADIAN CANAL.

Parliament Would Scarcely Sanction the Scheme.

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—A leading Canadian engineer, being asked what he thought of the navigation scheme from Lake Erie to New York, via the St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain, said that the expenditure of $100,000,000 or $200,000,000 of foreign capital in building a new Welland canal, new dams and locks on the St. Lawrence, and a canal from Valley Field to the Richelieu, would no doubt be of great benefit to Canada, but he questioned if Parliament wiuld give any corporation power to control navigation on a great waterway like the St. Lawrence.

The scheme itself might be feasible enough if not objectionable on national or military grounds. It would certainly divert trade from the Erie canal and render useless the Welland and St. Lawrence canals, upon which so much Canadian public money has been expended. It would also take away a good deal of trade from Montreal.

SOUTH DAKOTA'S DIVORCE LAW.

Chances Are That It Will Be Repealed This Winter.

Sioux Falls, S. D., Dec. 24.—Much interest is manifested in many circles over the probable fate of the South Dakota divorce industry when the Legislature meets in January. There is a decided tendency, especially in religious circles, towards a lengthening of the time for gaining a legal residence from ninety days to one year. Of course such a change would abolish in South Dakota that peculiar and fascinating institution known as "the colony."

North Dakota requires but 90 days and Nebraska but six months and the causes for divorce are no more numerous nor are the courts supposed to be more lenient in South Dakota than in those states so that the change would effectually and immediately destroy the divorce industry of the state. The attack on the law is led by the state W. C. T. U., which last September adopted a strong resolution on the subject, and made Mrs. Emma A. Crammer, of Aberdeen, and Mrs. Irene Adams, of Webster, a committee to lobby at Pierre this winter for a change of this law.

THE NEZ PERCES HOLD ON.

Say They Will Not Sell Their Reservation Now.

Lewiston, Idaho, Dec. 23.—The United States commissioners having in charge the negotiations of the treaty with the Nez Perces Indians for the purchase by the government of unallotted lands in the reservation, have returned from the council which they have been attending. Although they raised their offer from $2.50 to $3 per acre, the council refused to accept it, and gave out that they would not part with their lands at any price. The commissioners talk parties who are desirous of leasing these lands from the Indians have been at work, but they have not yet given up hope of effecting a settlement.

They have called another council for the 29th, and will then endeavor to get the poorer Indians to consent to the sale. The council, as at present constituted, is composed entirely of wealthy members of the tribe who have big herds of cattle and horses themselves, and wish to retain the pasture lands as long as they can, and to lease what they do not require themselves to white men, for grazing purposes only.

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT GOLD.

Montana Can Produce Enough to Pay the National Debt.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Gen. C. E. Warren, of Montana, is at the Leland. In regard to the gold shipments he said: 'This scare about so much gold leaving the country does not frighten residents of Montana, who know the mineral possibilities of the state. Why, Montana can produce $150,000,000 a year in gold if forced to it. There are no less than 5,000 gold properties in the state, which are paying claims.

"From those mines Montana alone can produce gold enough to pay the national debt. While he believe in free and unlimited coinage of silver, and this country can consume the entire product of silver, we admit that if silver should go to 60 cents an ounce it would close every silver mine in Montana, and force our miners to turn to gold mining."

MR. HARTER IS QUITE MODEST.

Will Not Enter Cleveland's Cabinet Nor Run for Governor.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 24.—A reporter asked Congressman Harter if there was anything in the talk about his probably selection for secretary of the Treasury or any other position in President-elect Cleveland's Cabinet.

"There is nothing in it whatever, and not the sligest foundation for such talk," was the response. "I wish you would say so for me. Please say there is nothing whatever to base such a rumor upon, and that there is nothing at all in it."

"Are you a candidate for governor?" was asked.

"I am a candidate for nothing. I am a candidate for no office except the one I now have."

OFFICIAL VOTE OF OREGON.

Election Muddle Taken to the Supreme Court.

Salem, Ore., Dec. 24.—The unofficial canvass of Oregon for Presidential elector gives the following figures: Republicans, 35,002; Democrats, 14,243; Populists, 26,875; Prohibitionists, 2,258. Pierce, one of the Populists, who was endorsed by the Democrats, received 35,813.

The mandamus proceedings will be argued in the state Supreme court to-morrow. The suit is brought to prevent the secretary of State from counting the votes cast for Pierce in those counties where his name appeared twice on the official ballot.

ITCHING HUMORS

Torturing, disfiguring eczemas, and every species of itching, burning, scaly, crusted, and pimply skin and scalp diseases, with dry, thin, and falling hair, are relieved in most cases by a single application, and speedily and economically cured by the

CUTICURA

Remedies, consisting of CUTICURA, the great skin cure, CUTICURA SOAP, an exquisite skin purifier and beautifier, and CUTICURA RESOLVENT, greatest of humor remedies, when the best physicians fail. CUTICURA REMEDIES cure every humor, eruption, and disease from pimples to scrofula. Sold everywhere. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Boston.

"How to Cure Skin Diseases" mailed free.

PIMPLES, blackheads, red, rough, and oily skin prevented and cured by CUTICURA SOAP.

FREE FROM RHEUMATISM

In one minute the Cuticura Anti-Pain Plaster relieves rheumatic, sciatic, hip, kidney, chest, and muscular pains and weaknesses. The first and only pain-killing strengthening plaster.

GOES II AROUND THE WORLD

Without a Cent for Necessary Traveling Expenses.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Sven Wieren, the Nellie Bly of Danish journalism, and correspondent of the Journal Dannebrog, of Copenhagen, Denmark, has reached Chicago enroute home via China, India and northern Africa.

Mr. Wieren has undertaken the most difficult though interesting feature of journeying around the world without any monetary assistance whatsoever within a prescribed time of eighteen months, although allowed the privilege of accepting the hospitality of friends and others interested in his task. Mr. Wieren departed from Copenhagen September 16 for Liverpool. From Liverpool he shipped on the Danish bark Jorgensen, bound for Wilmington, N. C., October 10. Arriving in Wilmington December 10, he contrived to obtain transportation to New York through the kindly offices of a friend, arriving there December 13, and coming direct to Chicago.

Through the influence of the agents of the Thingvala steamship line, Mr. Wieren is able to reach Denver, where he expects to earn enough money from a lecture he will give on "Denmark," to reach San Francisco. At San Francisco he goes to China, thence through India, and via the Suez ranal to the north coast of Africa, which he will follow until encountering a Danish ship which can be induced to convey him homeward.

Judging from the young man's experiences upon the subject his vicissitudes have tended to increase rather than diminish his zeal, and he hopes to reach Copenhagen certainly within eight months.

KRUPP'S ENORMOUS CANNON

Will be Seen at the Exposition Next Summer.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 27.—The Maryland Steel company's enormous shearlegs at the marine works at Sparrows Point are nearly ready to receive Krupp's 124-ton gun, to be exhibited at the World's Fair. The hydraulic mechanism by which the shears will be worked is completed. New trestle work has been erected under the bridge of the Baltimore & Sparrows Point railroad across Bear Creek, to give the structure greater strength for supporting the weight of the gun.

It is said that the gun will cost nearly $500,000. Its length, 87 feet, is nearly twice that of the largest gun owned in this country, which is 45 feet long. It is said that if fired on the lake front at Chicago the concussion would be so great that it would shatter nearly all the window glass in Chicago. The gun will carry a ball fifteen or sixteen miles. The gun and the several pieces of smaller ordnance and armor plate to comprise the Krupp exhibit will probably be brought over next month. The special cars being constructed by the Pennsylvania railroad company to carry the exhibit to Chicago will be finished and delivered at Sparrow's Point in a couple of weeks. The cars will be the largest ever built and almost entirely of iron.

One of them will be placed on 32 unusually large and strong wheels. This will be used for transporting the 124-ton gun.

PRESENTS GALORE FOR RUTH.

Her Papa's Friends Have Remembered Her Evidently.

New York, Dec. 24.—President-elect Cleveland's residence in West Fifty-first street has been decorated with Christmas greens. Wreaths have been placed at each window, and the dainty little drawing room has been trimmed with mistletoe, pine boughs and evergreens. It is intended by Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland to observe Sunday as Christmas day. They will partake of a splendid turkey sent by an admiring Long Island farmer. Already enough toys and other gifts to stock a store have poured in for Baby Ruth. There are enough dolls alone for a dozen children, while of jumping jacks, jacks-in-the-box, baby carriages and other playthings there are almost too many to count.

The presents for Ruth kept butler Wm. Sinclair and a maid busy all day yesterday. Unless plans are changed, Mrs. Cleveland will leave for a visit to her mother in Buffalo Wednesday or Thursday next. Her daughter is to accompany her. During her absence the President-elect will make preparations for removing to Lakewood for the winter. It is said by an intimate friend of Mr. Cleveland that he will probably go to his Lakewood cottage before January 10. Mrs. Cleveland will join him there on or about that date. The cottage is almost ready for their reception. The Clevelands will remain at the "little white house" until they go to Washington in March.

NARROW ESCAPE OF IOWANS.

Down the River on a Cake of Ice for Hours.

Nauvoo, Ill., Dec. 24.—Two men named Racey and Horton, living at Montrose, Iowa, had a terrible experience and a narrow escape from drowning. They attempted to cross the river in a flimsy skiff through a mass of running ice. The skiff finally upset, filled and sank. After a struggle they succeeded in catching a cake of ice, to which they clung. It was a dreadfully uncertain means of rescue, however, as the ice was thin and kept breaking off under their weight. The two men floated down the river for an hour, crying pitifully for help.

Lige Parker and Fred Wilhelmy saw the men and ran out on the sand bar at the Riverside Mills where a skiff lay, but there were no oars and Wilhelmy ran after oars. He returned only to find that the oars would not fit the boat. They ran back some distance to get another boat. In the meantime the freezing men on the ice cakes were witnesses to the evidently futile efforts to save them, and were on the point of giving up, when three men in a skiff pulled alongside and took them off. Both men were terribly chilled and exhausted, one being unable to speak.

SPEAKER CRISP IS SULKING.

Refused to go to New York to See Cleveland.

New York, Dec. 27.—A special from Washington says: Speaker Crisp surprised his friends to-day by remaining in the capital instead of going to New York to visit President-elect Cleveland. He refused to say when he would go to New York.

There is no doubt, however, that Speaker Crisp and his friends are making every possible effort to assure the President-elect that the Crisp faction in the House is friendly to Mr. Cleveland, and will support his policy in every way. The anti-Crisp people say that the speaker is giving some lessons in adroit politics by renunciation of allegiance to Senator Hill.

Montana for Harrison.

Helena, Mont., Dec. 21.—The official canvass of the vote of Montana shows the highest Harrison elector got a plurality of 1,270 over the highest Cleveland elector. Harrison polled 18,851 votes; Cleveland 17,581; Weaver 7,334.

DEAFNESS AND HEAD NOISES CURED by Peck's Invisible Ear Cushions. Whispers heard. Successful when all remedies fail. Sold by F. Hiscox, 853 B'way, N.Y. Write for book of proofs. FREE

INFECTED RAGS FROM RUSSIA.

Yet Dr. Jenkins Admits Them—How Cholera May Come.

New York, Dec. 22.—Unless Health Officer Jenkins is more thorough in carrying out the order of the Treasury department relative to exportation of rags from cholera-infected districts in Europe, some of the merchants threaten that vigorous measures will be taken to have the law enforced. One paragraph of the order of the Treasury department of August 19, relative to the quarantine, reads:

"It is also ordered that rags gathered in or shipped from any port or place where cholera is known to prevail in epidemic form be denied entry to the United States absolutely on and after the date of this circular, except such as were then afloat, which must be disinfected on arrival."

The steamship State of Alabama arrived on December 9 with 1,005 bales of rags, and most of this cargo is now at the Hoboken stores. A protest was made against the admission of the rags on the day after the arrival of the vessel, and a few hours later Acting Health Officer Segnine telegraphed: "I refused permit on these rags this morning."

Admitted the Rags.

Dr. Jenkins returned to his office at 12 o'clock, and immediately issued a permit for the admission of the rags, and they were unloaded at Hoboken and taken to the warehouse of the president of the board of health. Samples of rags were then obtained by an official sampler, who made affidavit before a notary public that he "found in the bales many bloody rags, as well as rags which apparently have come from a hospital. The rags generally are very foul, although the bales are stamped 'disinfected.'"

Dr. Jenkins expressed surprise, and agreed to make a personal investigation of the rags with the sampler, but failed to keep his appointment. He finally replied that he had not been able to go on Saturday, but failed to specify a time when he would go.

Then an appeal was made to Dr. Walter Wyman, supervising surgeon general of the Marine hospital service, in which it was said that there were large quantities of Russian rags coming to this country and being landed here, at Boston, and at other ports, adding: "If there is any danger in rags we are right in the midst of it, as of the large quantities being imported by the Boston importers, a certain proportion are being stored away at the paper mills throughout the country for use in the spring and summer, and if they contain cholera germs the same will be spread in the rivers when the rags are washed to be used for paper."

STEAMSHIP'S NARROW ESCAPE.

The Amur Got Out of the Way of a Water Spout.

Philadelphia, Dec. 24.—The British steamship Amur, Capt. Rouse, from Caibarien, dropped anchor off Glouchester last night, and her outward appearances foretold the thrilling experience she had had with the elements. December 19, when on the southern edge of the gulf stream, the ship had a narrow escape from total destruction by a water spout, which fortunately passed under her stern not many yards from the ship.

The first seen of this monstrous disturbance was in the shape of a heavy cloud on the horizon direct to windward. But as it approached it appeared as though it would overtake the ship and send all on board to the bottom. It was a desperate struggle to get out of its way, and the ship already in a disabled condition, the engineers stood by with the engines wide open, realizing it was a race for life. Nearer and nearer the dangerous water column drew to the ship, but by the time the noise of its approach met the ears of the crew the ship had gotten north to a place of safety. It passed the Amur's stern with a deafening roise. It quickly passed and disappeared.

The same evening the wind freshened up and by midnight was blowing a gale, the ship driving directly under the waves and sweeping from her decks everything movable. The tarpaulins on the hatchways were washed away, parts were started and boat coverings torn away. A tremendous sea from the northeast still continued, and decks were started through the immense pressure brought about by the great quantities of water that was being continually shipped. Every one on board was more or less injured through the ship's terrific rolling, and Capt. Rouse pronounces it the worst passage he ever experienced.

HOMESTEAD POISONING CASES.

Citizen Insists That Unhealthy Climate Caused the Deaths.

Uniontown, Pa., Dec. 24.—Thomas J. Crawford, the boss roller in the Columbia Iron and Steel works, has been interviewed on the Homestead poisoning. He was president of the famous advisory board, and is now under $13,000 bail on the charge of treason and riot. He said:

"Homestead has an unhealthy location. The water is bad, and a person has to become acclimated, so to speak, before he can live in the town without getting sick. The large number of strange men in the mill became sick from this cause, some dying. The company feared that the wives and other relatives of the men who died would bring suit for damages. They concluded to shift the responsibility by arresting the strikers on the charge of poisoning these men. The witnesses are simply mercenaries. It would be much easier for the company to pay these men $7,000 or $8,000 than to pay out half a million for damages.

WHITNEY TO BE THE PREMIER

With Carlisle, of Kentucky, for the Treasury Portfolio.

New York, Dec. 23.—The report, stronger than ever, has been revived that the Hon. Wm. C. Whitney is slated for secretary of State. Close friends of Mr. Whitney say that it would be a very difficult matter for him to decline Mr. Cleveland's invitation to enter the Cabinet, especially as its premier.

A forecast of the Cabinet that attracts some attention is as follows:

Secretary of State—Wm. C. Whitney, of New York.

Secretary of the Treasury—John G. Carlisle, of Kentucky.

Postmaster-General — Isaac Pusey Gray, of Indiana.

Attorney-General—George Gray, of Delaware.

Finance and Trade.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

The money market in New York was sharply disturbed during the earlier part of the week, owing to the gold shipments. It was believed that from seven to ten millions would go out, and as a consequence interest rates went up. Money on call rose to 40 per cent on Monday, but broke later, under offerings of foreign money, and touched 3 per cent. The average, however, for the week was between 6 and 8 per cent. Sterling exchange was [illegible] reduced 1-2 cent on Tuesday, but recovered on Wednesday, and on Thursday ruled still higher. The gold sent to Europe aggregated $4,400,000, and the market quieted down the closing days of the week, partly because of the unexpected smallness of the gold exports, and because of the holiday recess from Friday night to Tuesday of this week.

In the stock market, last week marked the climax and temporary end of the money squeeze of the previous week. The break in prices, especially is the industrial group, continued, with occasional rallies, through Wednesday. A better tone followed, and later the railway shares held remarkably firm; but a new bear combination was active and the industrial shares continued a drag on the market.

The adjournment of the Brussels conference and the introduction of a measure in the United States Senate authorizing the suspension of purchases under the law of 1890 had a depressing effect upon the silver market. The decline of commercial prices early in the week reached a level close to the lowest on record, the London quotation on Wednesday last being 37 10-16d. per ounce and 83c. in New York. Support was, however, extended to the market by the action of the British-Indian government, which showed a plain disposition to check any extraordinary decline in India exchange. The fact that only one-half of the council bills offered on Wednesday were allotted had a strengthening effect on bar silver, which advanced to 38 1-16d., though the New York price remained at 83c. in consequence of the cessation of government purchases for the current month.

WEEKLY CONDITION OF TRADE

Holiday Buying Especially Heavy Throughout the North.

New York, Dec. 24.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade: Reports of the condition of trade are decidedly more satisfactory in most lines, especially in woolens, though trade in iron and steel is noticeably weaker. The holiday trade throughout the North seems unusually large, especially at Chicago, St. Louis and Cleveland, and it is lively at some Southern points, such as Knoxville, but only fair at Memphis and Little Rock.

In other products distribution appears generally larger than usual for the season, particularly in dry goods, shoes and furniture of the better grades. On the other hand, money markets are showing more signs of pressure.

Speculative markets were much disturbed by large gold exports, and the rise in exchange, and the stringency in money on call, which rose from a [illegible] cent two weeks ago, and 6 on [illegible] ago, to 40 per cent, at one time [illegible] day, is still strong at 6 per cent. Wheat declined but 5-8c, the Western receipts continuing about 1,000,000 daily, but exports fell 2 1-2c and oats declined a 1-4. Corn advanced 1-16, great stocks being held for a rise, so that settlements of banker's Southern loans are backward. The Treasury has taken in $3,000,000 of its notes, and lost as much gold, while its silver has increased $500,000 during the week.

The business failures occurring throughout the country during the last seven days number 301, as compared with a total of 304 last week. For the corresponding week of last year the figures were 292.

REVIEW OF WEEK'S BUSINESS.

OFFICE OF THE TOLEDO BLADE,
Toledo, O., Dec. 28, 1892.

The following shows changes in government bonds during the past week:

	Dec. 27.	Dec. 20.
U. S. 4s, coupons	113¾	114
U. S. 4s, registered	112¾	113
U. S. 2s, registered	100	100
Pacific 6s of 1895	110	109

Condition of the Grain Market Up to the Close This Afternoon.

This forenoon the markets for wheat opened higher and firm, and advanced as trade proceeded. The clique at Chicago took hold of the market, which was the principal cause of the advance. The amount of wheat on passage decreased 672,000 and corn increased 426,000 bushels. Corn firmed up after the opening, but afterward eased off a fraction.

At Chicago May wheat opened at 78 1-2c, rose to 79 1-8c, fell to 78 3-4c, and then firmed to 79c. Improved; at New York it opened at 81c, rose to 82 1-8c, fell to 81 3-4c, then stood at 81 7-8c, 1 1-8c improved, and at Toledo it opened at 77 5-8c, and rose to 78c, 1c better.

Corn for May opened at New York at 51 3-8c, rose to 51 3-4c, then fell to 51 5-8c, 1-8c up, and at Chicago it opened at 45 7-8c, fell to 45 3-4c, rose to 46c, and then noted 45 3-4c, 1-4c lower than on Friday.

Close To-day.

This afternoon May wheat closed 3-8@ 5-8c off from the best figures of the day, concluding prices being easier. The visible of wheat shows an increase of 1,514,000 bushels, while wheat increased 405,000 bushels. With the visible now reaching, of wheat, 70, 834,000 bushels, the effort to put up prices in the face of what many leading dealers are of opinion that wheat is sufficiently low, and should improve a little, even under so heavy a weight. It is the policy of the English to get supplies as low as possible, and while they are as true of the Americans. There cannot be much higher wheat until the American merchants show a determination to put up the price, and the question arises, can the American farmer afford to hold over for rise under nearly 80 million bushels of wheat in sight in America? Corn is entering into increasing consumption in Europe and American wheat is supplanted for human use to a certain extent by American corn. In considering the situation corn must receive due consideration. Cor at present is selling at prices that should cause more active dealing in it. At the close to-day wheat 1-2@c off from the